

## Steps for Solving Story Problems:

### DRAW A PICTURE!

1) Identify the key words: is, more than, less than, times, fewer than, half, one third, twice as many

Rewrite the problem using the appropriate symbols for these words

2) Write down what you know and don't know using variables. What is a, b, c, or x, y, z, or l, w, h

Things you don't know (unkowns) and things you know (knowns) and give the values for the current placeholders.

A=                    X=                    L=

B=                    Y=                    W=

C=                    Z=                    H=

3) Identify which of these is the one the problem is asking for.

4) Write down any relevant formulas: area, perimeter, etc.

5) Ask yourself how would you solve for this?

6) Make substitutions so that you are left with only one unknown.

You can only solve a problem if there is only one unknown left in the problem

7) Move the unknown to one side of the equation, and the numbers to the other side (Isolate the variable)

8) PLUG YOUR ANSWER BACK IN TO CHECK IT! DOES THE ANSWER MAKE SENSE?