# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Problem Solving in Mathematics Instruction ................. 5  
Understanding the Problem-Solving Process ................. 7  
Problem-Solving Strategies ................................. 12  
Ask, Don’t Tell ............................................. 14  
Differentiating with Leveled Problems ........................ 15  
Management and Assessment ................................. 18  
How to Use This Book ..................................... 22  
Correlations to Standards ...................................... 26  

## Leveled Problem-Solving Lessons

### Operations and Algebraic Thinking

In the Garden ................................................. 32  
Strings of Beads .............................................. 34  
Number Counts .............................................. 36  
Growing Creatures ........................................... 38  
Piles of Pennies ............................................. 40  
Whose Is Whose? ............................................. 42  
Class Trips .................................................... 44  
Pattern Questions ........................................... 46  

### Number and Operations in Base Ten

Craft Stories ................................................ 48  
Number Models .............................................. 50  
Check It Out ............................................... 52  
Trivia ......................................................... 54  
Broken Calculator ......................................... 56  
Puzzlers ....................................................... 58  
Author, Author! ............................................. 60  
How Many Seats? ............................................ 62  
Use What You Know ........................................ 64  
Make It True ................................................ 66  
Pictograms .................................................... 68
# Table of Contents (cont.)

**Number and Operations—Fractions**
- On the Path .................................................. 70
- Know Your Numbers ............................................ 72
- Which Number Is It? ............................................ 74
- Birthday Party ................................................. 76
- Make the Numbers .............................................. 78
- Bake Off .......................................................... 80
- Fraction Figures ................................................ 82
- What Would You Do? .......................................... 84
- Create a Decimal ............................................... 86
- On the Number Line .......................................... 88

**Measurement and Data**
- Water Animals .................................................. 90
- Timely Matters .................................................. 92
- Going Places .................................................... 94
- Shopping .......................................................... 96
- My Bedroom Floor .............................................. 98
- Around and Inside ............................................. 100
- Sensible Measures ............................................. 102
- Banks ............................................................. 104
- At the Race ....................................................... 106
- Balancing Acts .................................................. 108
- Line Plots ........................................................ 110
- What’s the Angle? .............................................. 112
- Angle Measures ................................................ 114

**Geometry**
- Lines of Symmetry ............................................. 116
- What Shape Am I? ............................................. 118
- Draw Me .......................................................... 120
- Name the Shape ................................................ 122
- Tangram Shapes ............................................... 124
- Venn Diagram ................................................... 126
- Hidden Figures .................................................. 128
- Who Drew What? ............................................. 130

**Appendices**
- Appendix A: Student Response Form ....................... 132
- Appendix B: Individual Observation Form .................. 133
- Appendix C: Group Observation Form ...................... 134
- Appendix D: Record-Keeping Chart ......................... 135
- Appendix E: Answer Key ...................................... 136
- Appendix F: References Cited ............................... 141
- Appendix G: Contents of the Teacher Resource CD ....... 142
Strings of Beads

Standard
Multiplies and divides whole numbers

Overview
Given the costs of beads, students calculate the cost of a necklace.

Activate
1. Engage students in the context by asking, Have you ever strung beads? What did you make?
2. Display the Bead Problem for students to solve. Ask How much did the beads for these earrings cost? ($40)
3. Have students share how they found the total. Record their responses. (Possibilities include: 5 + 10 + 5 + 5 + 10 + 5; 2 \times 10 + 4 \times 5; 8 \times 5; finding the total of one earring and then doubling that cost.)

Solve
1. Distribute copies of Strings of Beads to students. Have students work alone or in pairs.
2. Ask clarifying and refocusing questions, such as How many of these beads are there? How are you keeping track of what you are finding?
3. Before debriefing, you may want students to place their work on their desks and take a gallery walk to see what strategies others used and how they recorded their thinking.

Debrief
1. What strategies did you use?
2. Who can show us a different way?

Differentiate 
Pair students who continue to rely on addition and subtraction with those who are more likely to use multiplication and division. Exposure to each other’s thinking will allow both students to remember the relationship between addition and multiplication.

Problem-Solving Strategies
- Count, compute, or write an equation
- Use logical reasoning

Materials
- Strings of Beads (page 35; stringsbeads.pdf)
- Bead Problem (beadproblem.pdf)
- Student Response Form (page 132; studentresponse.pdf) (optional)
Strings of Beads

What is the cost of the necklace?

Strings of Beads

What is the cost of the bead?

Strings of Beads

What is the cost of the necklace?