

## 97 Voices

Oh no, I need to copy the new POW tomorrow, but I haven't made one up! Here's a picture of my mind:

That's right! A total blank! But wait, why should POW have only one voice, week after week? Let a hundred problems bloom! (Or almost.) Let a hundred voices be heard!

So.... it's up to you. Please find a good math problem and write it up briefly. Your description of the problem can be between three and ten sentences. It can be a problem you make up, or one you find. (But please give credit to your source.) You can get problems from family members, from teachers, or from other students. Lots of people have favorite math problems--just ask them! You can also look in books or search the internet. It can be an arithmetic problem, a geometry problem, a logic puzzle, a game. There's only one requirement: it must be a good problem for your POW class. A problem your classmates can understand, enjoy working on, and maybe solve. Please don't bring in a problem so challenging that no one will want to try it.

Please have your problem description ready for our next class--the "in-between" week. If you need to bring in materials for a game, or puzzle pieces, please do so. We'll get into small groups and try each others' problems. For your final write-up, you may want to include a brief comment about how people worked on your problem, or hints about how to solve it. You can also mention a problem someone else brought in that you really enjoyed.

As an example, here's my contribution, a puzzle I learned to make when I was a child, but I don't remember where I learned it:

### The Loops and the Ring

I just made this puzzle from a shoelace, a piece of cardboard, and a key ring. The shoelace is tied to both ends of the cardboard, and it goes through the center hole in a kind of knot, so two loops are formed. The metal ring is on one loop, and the problem is to move it to the other loop--without cutting or untying the shoelace, bending the ring, or widening the hole. It is possible! To help you keep track, I labeled one side of the cardboard "Blue" and the other "Red." Have fun!

Have fun!

