



Spotlight on Math Models:

Tape Diagrams

You will often see this mathematical representation in A Story of Units.

\$ 6WRU \ RI 8QLWV KD V VHYHUDO NH \ will be used through RXW D VWXGHQW \ V HOHI

The tape diagram is a powerful model that students can use to solve various kinds of problems. In second grade, you will often see this model as an aid to addition and subtraction. It is a simple bar drawing that students make and adjust to fit a word problem. They then use the drawing to discuss and solve the problem.

As students move through the grades, tape diagrams provide an essential bridge to algebra. Below is a sample word problem from Module 2 solved using a tape diagram to show the parts of the problem.

(Example taken from Lesson 3, Module 2)

Robin is 11 years old. Her mother, Gwen, is 2 years more old than Robin.
 How old is Gwen?