

## A TEACHER REFLECTS

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I think Sneaking Up the Line was my favorite lesson for the phase. The class decided to act out the problem. They had a lot of fun and understood the problem well. I liked the confidence I saw in their eyes when we went over the directions for the lesson. There was definitely a feeling of “I can do this” for many students. Manipulatives were available and we discussed the possibility of drawing pictures, which some students seemed to prefer.

Something Fishy provided a different format for pattern seeking which I thought might be difficult for some students. However, I think my students enjoyed drawing the fish and thus paid close attention to the way the pattern unfolded. This was a useful lesson for those visual learners. I believe the draw-your-own-animal exercise would be a great extra credit assignment because it is fairly time intensive, yet is also high interest and extends the original concept.

I like the concept of Lesson 12, The Will. However, I found that some students reacted negatively to the context of the problem. Realizing that this was the case (one student had just been absent for a few days due to a death in her family), I decided to relate the problem to three different payment methods for a game-show prize. I believe my class was more comfortable with that context.

There was a lot of skill work in Lesson 12. Each student made a table for each plan and was required to make sure the math was correct for all 75 problems. (My room was very quiet for this lesson.) There was not as high a level of excitement as for some of the other lessons, but there were fewer questions and a sense of focus in the room. The second plan was by far the most difficult. I like the fact that most students looked for an expression because they knew it would cut down on the amount of work they would have to do, and knew that they could always fall back on another method if they couldn't find an expression.