

Summary of the Problem

Story book: “The Wishing Club: A Story About Fractions” by Donna Jo Napoli and Anna Currey

Problem: The children wish on a star each night and realize that a pattern emerged – each child receives only part of what they wished for and that part is the reciprocal of their ages. In other words, the two-year-old received $\frac{1}{2}$ of what he wished for, the eight-year-old received $\frac{1}{8}$ of what she wished for, etc. They discover that they’ve been wishing on a comet and that it will be visible only one more night. They collaborate to wish for the same thing, a pet pig, in order to receive one complete pig, but they decide they’d better prove that they will receive one whole pig first. They do not want to receive just part of a pig – yuck! The four children are a 2-year-old boy, a 4-year-old boy, and twin 8-year-old girls.

Anticipating: Explore *at least two different ways* students might choose to “prove” that the kids will receive one whole pig when they each wish for a pig.

Monitoring, Selecting, and Sequencing Worksheet

Strategy	Who and What	Order
Fraction equation – solving with common denominators		
Fraction bars		
Fraction circles		
Measuring cups		
Measuring with rulers		
Graph Paper		
Other		

Adapted from:
Smith, M. S., & Stein, M. K. (2011). *5 Practices for orchestrating productive mathematics discussions*. Reston, VA: The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc.