STRUCTURES OF EQUALITY

How To Introduce a Parts Equal Total Structure of Equality

Optional Materials: Dry Erase Sentence Strips, Dry Erase Markers, Snap Cubes

1. Display a number story that describes composing 2 parts to form a total with the values removed.

2. Ask students to read the story in their brain two times. Or Read the story aloud to the class two times.

3. Ask the following questions -
   - Does the story have characters?
   - Where does the story take place?
   - Does the story have an action?
   - What is the thing or item in the story that is being composed?
   - What is the math main idea?

(When you do this, bring your hands together to represent two parts coming together to form a total.)

4. Say, “We can map out this story using a graphic organizer called a Parts Equal Total Structure of Equality.”

5. Draw the total bar or use a sentence strip and then write with a blank in front of it. See the example below. Say, “This bar represents the total amount of students we are counting.”

6. Draw the two parts bars or use sentence strips so that they line up to equal the total and write the in each part with a blank in front of both. In parenthesis write a descriptor of the unit Say, “These two bars represent the two parts we are bringing together to form the total.”*

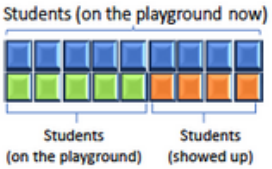
7. Say, “Structures of Equality have three important elements to them.”
   - “They have values, which is represented by this blank line. Point to the blank space before the values.”
   - “They have labels, which is ( ) in this story. Point to the labels.”
   - “They represent equality or the relationship occurring in the story. Place your hands around the two parts bars to demonstrate how the equal the total.”

8. Say, “Structures of Equality help us understand what the number story is asking us to do. When you map out a number story using a Structure of Equality, I can see what your brain is doing.”

9. Remove the number story and say, “Who can retell the number story using the Structure of Equality to help them?”

10. Repeat daily without inserting numbers or solving until the students can draw a Parts Equal Total Structure of Equality independently.

*Number stories can also be modeled using snap cubes. If you choose this option, use three different color snap cubes, one for the total and one or each of the parts.



_____ students (on the playground now)	
_____ students (on the playground)	____ students (showed)