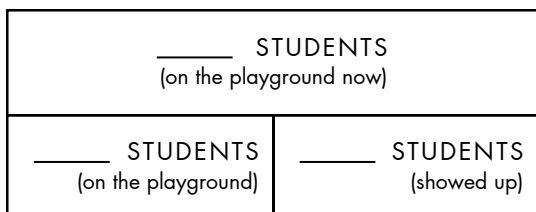


# How To Introduce a Parts Equal Total Structure of Equality

**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 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?
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 the label with a blank in front of it. See the example to the right. Say, **"This bar represents the total amount of [label] 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 label with a blank in front of both. In parentheses write a descriptor of the unit. See example to the right. 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."**
  1. *"They have values, which is represented by this blank line."* Point to the blank space before the values.
  2. *"They have labels, which is [insert label] in this story."* Point to the labels.
  3. *"They represent equality or the relationship occurring in the story."* Place your hands around the two parts bars to demonstrate how they 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.

## EXAMPLE STRUCTURE



## USING SNAP CUBES

*\*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 for each of the parts.*

