

How To Introduce a Compare Structure of Equality

Optional Materials: Dry Erase Sentence Strips, Dry Erase Markers, Snap Cubes, Bulletin Board Paper (2 different colors)

Insert Story Here:
 _____ students were standing on the red paper. _____ students were standing on the blue paper. There were _____ more student(s) standing on the red paper than on the blue paper.

1. Display a number story that describes comparing 2 sets.
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 a main character? If yes, who/what is it?
 - Where might the story take place?
 - Does the story have an action or verb? What is it?
 - What is the thing or item in the story being compared?
 - What is the math main idea? (The story describes comparing two sets.)
4. Say, "We can map out this story using a graphic organizer called a Compare Structure of Equality."
5. Draw the longer bar or use a sentence strip and then write the label with a blank in front of it. See example below. Say, "This bar represents the value the larger set described in the math story."
6. Draw the shorter bar or use sentence strips and then write the label with a blank in front of it. See example below. Say, "This bar represents the value of the smaller set described in the math story."*
7. In parenthesis write a descriptor of the unit on both bars. Say, "These descriptors will help us remember what is unique about each bar."
8. Draw a line across the two bars where they are equal. Say, "This is the line of equality. It shows where the two bars are equal and where the more is". Point to where they are equal and to where the more is. Decompose the loner bar into two sections (see below).
9. Say, "Structures of Equality have three important elements to them."
 - "They have values, which are represented by the blank lines. Point to the blank spaces before the values."
 - "They have labels, which is (insert label) in this story. Point to the labels."
 - "They represent equality or the relationship occurring in the story." Place your hand on the Line of Equality
10. Say, "Structures of Equality help us understand the relationships occurring in the story. When you map out a number story using a Structure of Equality, I can see what your brain is doing."
11. Remove the number story and say, "Who can retell the number story using the Structure of Equality to help them?"

*Number stories can also be modeled using snap cubes actual objects or large pieces of bulletin board paper placed on the floor. Whatever representation you choose, be sure to line the two sets up as drawn below and discuss how the model represents the story. Ex. One blue cube represents one piece of blue candy.

