A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed:

A man finds himself on a riverbank with a cat, a parrot and a bag of seed. He needs to transport all three to the other side of the river in his boat. However, the boat has room for only the man himself and one other item (either the cat, parrot or seed). In his absence, the cat could eat the parrot, and the parrot would eat the bag of seed. Show how he can get all the passengers to the other side, without leaving the wrong ones alone together.

**Define.** The predicament in this situation is that the man cannot transport everything at the same time.

**Break the problem apart.** My first thought of resolve was, of course, that he transports the creatures/item one at a time, leaving them on the other side. However, there are certain predicaments that arise considering if he leaves anything on either side:

1. If he carries the bag of seed first, the cat will eat the parrot
2. Carry the cat, and the parrot will eat the bag of seed!

**Possible Solutions.** Thus, this leaves one instant solution: carry the parrot first since the cat isn’t interested in the bag of seed.  
However, this opens up a second set of problems:

1. If the man brings the cat next, when he goes back for the bag of seeds, the cat will eat the bird!
2. If he brings the bag of seeds to the other side, when he leaves for the cat, the bird will eat the bag of seeds.