

Literasee: Baby steps with growth

Subtraction Isn't a Growth Model

Student academic growth is a topic that almost everyone thinks they understand. Growth and change are familiar concepts to all parents, especially as they relate to increases in the height and weight of children. However, when details about the "growth model" emerge reactions often range from general confusion to frustration: **Why does something so simple have to be made so complicated?**

In reality, student academic growth is a little more complicated than most people think but much less complicated than what's written about it would lead one to believe. A simple 5th grade story problem helps to illustrate this point.

A Tale of Two High Jumpers

The story problem is drawn from a situation outside of education where we are asked to consider the improvement in personal best high jumps for two high jumpers, Anna and Judy.

“ Anna is a novice higher jumper and Judy is a world class competitor. In 2015 Anna's best jump was 3 feet 6 inches



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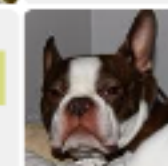
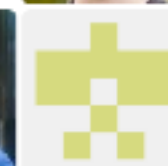
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