**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 on 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.

1. ***Define the Problem:***
   1. **Do this in your own words.**

The man needs to cross the river using a boat that only hold himself and one other item. He has three items he needs to take to the other side of the river. His items are a cat, a parrot and a bag of seed. He must decide the order of the items to take because if taken in the wrong order, he risks losing one of the items.

* 1. **What insight can you offer into the problem that is not immediately visible from the word problem alone?**

While the parrot could possibly fly, but this depends on whether his wings are clipped and if he would fly to the other side of the bank. Also, cats don’t eat seed.

* 1. ***What is the overall goal?***

The overall goal is to get all three items safely across the river without incident.

1. ***Break the problem apart***
   1. ***What are the constraints?***

The constraints are that:

* the cat could eat the parrot while the man crosses the river with the seed.
* the boat will only hold one other item besides the man
* the parrot will eat the seed if the man transports the cat first.
  1. ***What are the sub-goals?***

The sub-goals are to not leave the cat alone with the parrot or the parrot alone with the seed.

1. ***Identify potential solutions***
   1. ***For each of the sub-problems you’ve discussed in #2, what is a possible solution?***

* Take the parrot first
* Take the cat first
* Take the seed first
* Take all three items at one time

1. ***Evaluate each potential solution***
   1. ***Does each solution meet the goals?***

Not every solution will meet the goals.

* 1. ***Will each solution work for ALL cases?***

No, only one will.

1. ***Choose a solution and develop a plan to implement it.***
   1. ***Explain the solution in full.***

By taking the parrot first, you will still have to transport either the cat or the seed next which results in the problem in the first place. I would suggest one trip by placing the parrot on top of the seed bag and putting the cat in my lap or between my legs on the floor of the boat.

* 1. ***Describe some test cases you tried out to make sure it works.***

The best test case is for the man to load the seed, and then place the parrot on top of it. Next, he would carry the cat to the boat and place it on his lap or on the floor of the boat between his legs.