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

1. Define the problem:   
   a. The problem is figuring out how to transport the cat, parrot and seed across the water one at a time without the parrot being eaten by the cat or the seed being eaten by the parrot while two of the objects are left alone.  
     
   b. The word problem does not state it, but the parrot is able to fly so transporting the parrot via boat would not be necessary. The problem also does not state that it is required that the man be transported to the other side of the river. The man could also take one object back across with him to his starting point.  
     
   c. The overall goal is to get the cat, the parrot and the bag of seed to the other side of the river.
2. Break the problem apart:  
   a. The constraints include:  
    1. Not being able to leave the cat with the parrot  
    2. Not leaving the parrot with the seed.  
    3. There’s only room for the man and one of the objects in the boat at a time.  
     
   b. The sub goals include:  
    1. Prohibiting the cat from eating the parrot.  
    2. Prohibiting the parrot from eating the seed.
3. Identify potential solutions:  
   a. Having the parrot fly across to the other side of the river.  
     
   b. Return the parrot to the opposite side of the river in the boat after transporting the cat and the seed.
4. Evaluate each potential solution:  
   a. Assuming that the parrot is compliant and obeys direction, allowing the parrot to fly back and forth across the river as the man makes multiple trips to transport the cat and the bag of seed, this solution does meet the overall goal and sub-goals of this problem.  
     
   If the man took the parrot back and forth with him in the boat to the opposite sides of the river in between the trips transporting the cat and the bag of seed, the overall and sub-goals of this problem are met.   
     
   b. Each solution appears to work in theory; the only hiccup would be if the parrot did not follow directions to fly across. That would be learned when testing that solution to know for sure. Otherwise, transporting the parrot back and forth with the man would be successful.
5. Choose a solution and develop a plan to implement it:  
   a. First, take the parrot across the river (side B) in the boat with the man.  
   Next, take the boat back across the river (side A), pick up the cat and take the cat to the opposite side (side B).  
   On the way back to side A, take the parrot (from side B) back with the man.  
   Next, drop off the parrot on side A and pick up the bag of seed. Take the bag of seed with the man to side B where the cat is.  
   Take the boat back to side A to pick up the parrot.  
   Finally, take the parrot to side B to be with the cat and the bag of seed.   
     
   b. As long as the parrot is not left alone with either the cat or the bag of seed, the solution works out. By moving the parrot back and forth, this solution is achieved.

Socks in the Dark:

1. Define the problem:   
   a. The problem is figuring out the smallest number of socks that can be selected in the dark in order to come up with a at least one matching pair and also at least one matching pair of each different color socks.  
   b. Information that is not immediately visible from this problem is that the socks are assumed to be separate and not in pairs already. The problem states: “There are 20 socks in a drawer”.  
   c. The overall goal is to select the fewest amount of socks possible in the dark to complete at least one matching pair and also at least one matching pair of each color out of the drawer.
2. Break the problem apart:  
   a. The constraints include:  
   b. The sub goals include:
3. Identify potential solutions:  
   a.   
   b.
4. Evaluate each potential solution:  
   a.   
   b.
5. Choose a solution and develop a plan to implement it:  
   a.   
   b.