**A Cat, a Parrot, And a Bag of Seed**

**The Problem***:* A man needs to get a cat, a parrot, and a bag of seed from one side of a river to the other. The boat he is suing only has room for himself, and one other item. If the man should leave the cat with the parrot, the cat will eat the parrot. If the man should leave the parrot with the bag of seed, the parrot will eat the bag of seed.

**Insight:**My first initial thought is that he has the same problem on both ends of the river. If he leaves the cat with the seed and transports the parrot, the next item he transports will either feed the parrot or devour it.

**Goal:**The overall goal is to transport all three items from point A to point B without leaving the combination of the other two that will interact in a negative way.

**Breaking The Problem Apart**

**Constraints:**The obvious constraints are that he can only leave the cat with the seed to begin with, but will be forced to leave the parrot with either the cat or the bag of seed when he returns to transport the other item in question.

**Sub Goals:**The sub goal to the problem is to get one item across the river that will not negatively impact the ultimate goal by negative interaction.

**Potential Solutions**

**Possible Solutions to Sub Problems:** One out of the box way he can solve this is by making the parrot fly and circle above while he transports to cat and bag of seed. Then he could have the parrot land on the other side, but this is not a feasible solution.

A second way would be to find the right combination of transports that will allow a desirable outcome. By finding the best way to transport his items, he can avoid leaving the two items together that will result in failure.

**Solution Evaluation**

**Does Each Solution Meet Goals:** Both suggested solutions meet the ultimate goal of getting all items across the river. One will take some planning whilst the other is not that feasible.

**Will Each Solution Work For All Cases:** Each case scenario will work and function to complete the task at hand. As stated before, one will require careful and precise planning and the other (though not feasible) will allow for a speedier solution.

**Solution Implementation**

**Full Solution Explanation***:* This is my solution to the problem: The Man is to leave the cat with the bag of seed and transport the parrot to the other side. He is then to return to the cat and the bag of seed and transport the cat to the other side. Once he is on the opposite side with the cat and the parrot, he is to return the parrot to the first side of the river. Once there, the man is to transport the bag of seed in the boat and leave the parrot. He then returns to the other side and leaves the seed with the cat while he for the last time returns to the other side to transport the parrot back to where the cat and seed are waiting.

**Test Case Scenarios I Tried To Make Sure The Solution Works:** First I thought long and hard about the problem presented. I mentally ran different scenarios in my mind to find a solution and came close to finding the right combination of circumstances. I then drew out my ideas on paper to try and enhance my understanding of the situation. With the drawings supporting my ideas, I was able to find a solution to the problem.

**Socks in the dark**

**The Problem***:* I need to figure out what the smallest number of socks is that I can select in order to guarantee that I will select a matching pair (and matching color), of socks.

**Insight:**The immediate consideration that comes into play is that of analyzing this problem with math. If I can find the right formula to apply, I will be able to calculate a solution. I also need to understand that I can calculate this by formulating for individual socks (20) or pairs of socks (10).

**Goal:**The goal is to select at random (x) number of socks to find a like (y) and matching (z) pair of socks. In the end I will figure out the least amount of individual socks needed to find 1 matching pair of 10 matching pair (20 individual).

**Breaking The Problem Apart**

**Constraints:**The entire process of finding one matching pair must be done in the dark. This decreases the odds of finding a matching pair considerably. There are also 3 different sets of socks distributed into 10 pairs.

**Sub Goals:**After the problem is broken apart into smaller issues that need to be dealt with, I need to consider that I need to find 2 out of 20, and that they need to match.

**Potential Solutions**

**Possible Solutions to Sub Problems:** The easiest solution would be to turn the light on but that is not an option. Another solution would be to grab all the sox and then turn the light on but that also is not an option.

Finally, I could formulate the least amount of individual socks I would need to grab in order to insure that I will wind up with one single matching pair of 2 socks out of 10 total pair.

**Solution Evaluation**

**Does Each Solution Meet Goals:** Each of my 3 solutions will meet the goal of finding a matching pair of socks. Two of the three solutions are not legitimate forms of finding a pair due to the constraints on the problem. The only alternative left is to formulate a mathematical solution.

**Will Each Solution Work For All Cases:** All current possible solutions will work for the problems. In the end, finding a pair of matching socks will be the outcome for each of the case scenarios.

**Solution Implementation**

**Full Solution Explanation***:* Grabbing at least 12 individual socks (60%), whilst aiming for the most prevalent kind (black (50%)) of available kinds will bring the odds of grabbing unwanted (white and brown) down considerably. The odd of grabbing a matching set increase when the odds of grabbing the other variables decrease.

Because I want to choose a sock type of high quantity, when I grab 60% of all available socks, I eliminate the possibility of not grabbing a black sock, therefore effectively grabbing at least one matching pair.

**Test Case Scenarios I Tried To Make Sure The Solution Works:** To test my theory, I conducted the experiment in question. I turned off the light and tried to find one matching pair of ten pair. I conducted the experiment more than one time and took 60% of all available socks. Each time I was able to retrieve a matching pair of black socks. I also calculated my formula for finding the proper amount on paper.

**Predicting Fingers**

**The Problem***:*

**Insight:**The very first thing I realized is that this little girl does not know how to utilize all her fingers in the process of counting. Secondly, the easiest way to determine the answer for the solution lies in a mathematical formula that I must define and calculate. In order to find the answers to all three questions I will need to do some math.

**Goal:**

**Breaking The Problem Apart**

**Constraints:**

**Sub Goals:**

**Potential Solutions**

**Possible Solutions to Sub Problems:**

**Solution Evaluation**

**Does Each Solution Meet Goals:**

**Will Each Solution Work For All Cases:**

**Solution Implementation**

**Full Solution Explanation***:*

**Test Case Scenarios I Tried To Make Sure The Solution Works:**