

What number am I?

Annotation

Aria can write an expression using the algebraic convention of a letter symbol to represent any number, and she can explain her thinking.

Problem: What number am I?

The teacher shows the student the following problem, reading it to them as required:

I'm thinking of a number. Now I add 15 to that number.

Then the teacher asks the student:

Can you write down the number I am thinking of now?

Student Response



A handwritten expression in black ink, consisting of the letter 'n', a plus sign, and the number '15'.

$$n + 15$$

Teacher: Tell me about what you have written.

Aria: Well I don't know the value of your number but I can write a letter for a number. I like n because it kind of stands for "number". So n is the number you first thought of, and $n + 15$ is the one you're thinking of now.