Late for class

Annotation

Mele can write an equality statement for a situation involving factors and an unknown and can explain her reasoning for the conventional algebraic notation she uses.

Problem: Late for class

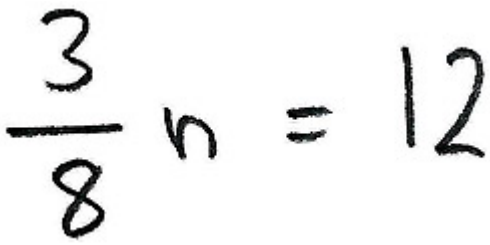
The teacher shows the student the following problem, reading it to them as required:

12 students have been late for lessons this week. That's 3/8 of the class.

Then the teacher asks the student:

Before doing any calculations to work out the number of students there are in the class, can you write an equation that describes the situation, using n for the number of students in the class?

Student Response



Teacher:	Tell me about what you have written.
Mele:	I know that *n* stands for all the kids in the class and that 3/8 of the class have been late. So 3/8*n* is the same as saying 3/8 of the class. Twelve is the same as 3/8 of the class, so it’s easy to work out how many in 1/8 of the class, then use that to find the whole class, which would be 8/8.