

Runaway ponies

Annotation

Nina can read a simple subtraction equation and suggest an appropriate problem context. She shows that she understands the meaning of the subtraction symbol within the equation and that the operation of subtraction gives a result that is less than the starting amount (the minuend).

Problem: Runaway ponies

The teacher shows the following equation to the student:

$$9 - 7 = 2$$

Then the teacher asks:

Can you read this for me?

Student Response

Nina: Nine take away seven makes two.

Teacher: Can you tell me a story that might go with these numbers?

Nina: Say there were nine ponies, and seven ran away, well that would mean that two were left behind.