

Book worms

Annotation

Chase can correctly use a greater-than sign to record an inequality statement for a given word problem. In explaining the notation, he shows that he understands that “greater than” and “more than” have a similar mathematical meaning.

Problem: Book worms


The teacher shows and reads the following problem to the student:

Last month, Kate read 10 books, and John read 8 books.

Then the teacher asks:

Can you write this using numbers and symbols to show who read more?

Student Response



A handwritten student response showing the inequality $10 > 8$. The numbers and the greater-than symbol are drawn in a simple, slightly shaky hand.

Teacher: Tell me about what you have written.

Chase: I could see that Kate read more than John. So I wrote 10 and the greater-than sign, and then I wrote 8. This (*pointing to her recording*) says that 10 is greater than 8.