

# Plant problems

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## Annotation

Amira can read an equality statement expressed with conventional algebraic notation that describes a situation involving factors and an unknown. She can suggest a context for the problem.

## Problem: Plant problems

The teacher shows the student the following equation and asks:

*Can you read this for me?*

$$3n - 5 = 13$$

## Student Response

Amira: Three  $n$  minus five equals 13.

Teacher: Can you suggest a situation where you could use this equation?

Amira: I see immediately that  $3n$  is 18 and that  $n$  is six, so I'm thinking of something with those numbers. So what if there were three containers with the same number of plants in each container. Five of the plants die, and that leaves just 13 plants. So " $n$ " is the number of plants in each container to start with.