A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed: A man finds himself on a riverbank with a cat, a parrot and a bag of seed. He needs to transport all three to the other side of the river in his boat. However, the boat has room for only the man himself and one other item (either the cat, parrot or seed). In his absence, the cat could eat the parrot, and the parrot would eat the bag of seed. Show how he can get all the passengers to the other side, without leaving the wrong ones alone together.

The issue is that the man could lose the parrot or the seed if he leaves the parrot alone with the cart, or the seed with the parrot. Approaching this issue in a linear fashion, as if you can only move each thing once, makes the scenario impossible.

We cannot leave the parrot with the seed or the cat with the parrot or we will lose one. The sub-goals are then to prevent the parrot form eating the seed and the cat from eating the parrot.

1) Define the problem

a) Do this in your own words.

b) What insight can you offer into the problem that is not immediately visible from the word problem alone?

c) What is the overall goal?

2) Break the problem apart

a) What are the constraints?

b) What are the sub-goals?

3) Identify potential solutions

a) For each of the sub-problems you’ve discussed in #2, what is a possible solution?

4) Evaluate each potential solution

a) Does each solution meet the goals?

b) Will each solution work for ALL cases?

5) Choose a solution and develop a plan to implement it.

a) Explain the solution in full.

b) Describe some test cases you tried out to make sure it works. (You can include drawings and diagrams as part of your explanation as long as they are clearly communicating the solution).

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Socks in the Dark: There are 20 socks in a drawer: 5 pairs of black socks, 3 pairs of brown and 2 pairs of white. You select the socks in the dark and can check them only after a selection has been made. What is the smallest number of socks you need to select to guarantee getting the following: a) At least one matching pair b) At least one matching pair of each color.

Predicting Fingers: A little girl counts using the fingers of her left hand as follows: She starts by calling her thumb 1, the first finger 2, middle finder 3, ring finger 4, and little finger 5. Then she reverses direction, calling the ring finger 6, middle finger 7, first finger 8 and thumb 9, after which she calls her first finger 10 and so on. If she continues to count in this manner, on which finger will she stop? a) What if the girl counts from 1 to 10 b) What if the girl counts from 1 to 100 c) What if the girl counts from 1 to 1000