



Tufts Literacy Corps

Tufts UNIVERSITY | Jonathan M. Tisch
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When you are faced with a tough math problem, remember:

There IS a solution to this problem – and you can solve it.

Great Mathematicians Know:

Some solutions don't come easy. They might have to try many strategies before they find an answer.

The Tortoise and the Hare Principle:

Faster is NOT better. Don't rush – and remember the best thinkers are not necessarily the fastest thinkers.

Take a look at SOLVE, the Tufts Literacy Corps tips for solving challenging problems, on the next page.



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SOLVE!

State: Read the problem all the way through, more than once. What is it asking you? Explain it in your own words OR draw a picture.

Organize: Break the problem into parts. What do you need to figure out first? Second?

Look for Solutions Try to think of at least two ways to tackle the problem BEFORE you start working. The first strategy didn't work? Back to the drawing board! Try the next one. Still no luck? "Sleep on it." If you get stuck, take a break and try it again later. And never forget that "two heads are better than one." Talk to a friend - or a TLC Math Tutor. Share your thinking and hear what someone else might have to say.

Verify Congratulations! You found a solution that works! Don't forget to check your work for little errors that might hide your great thinking.

Enjoy Relax and have fun!

