



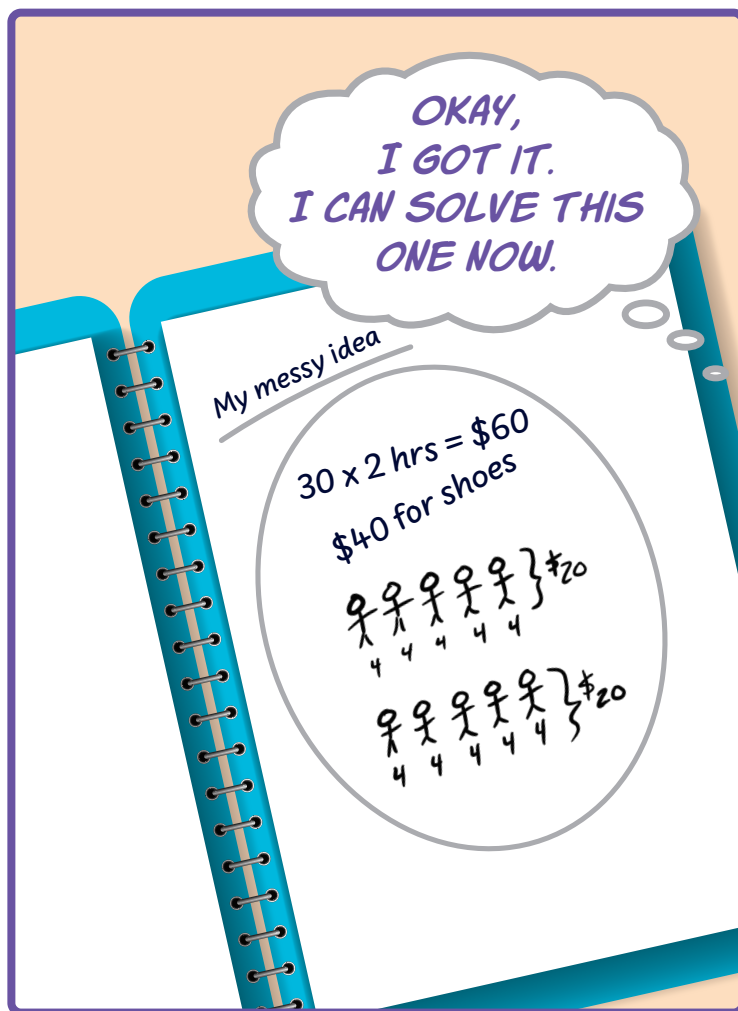
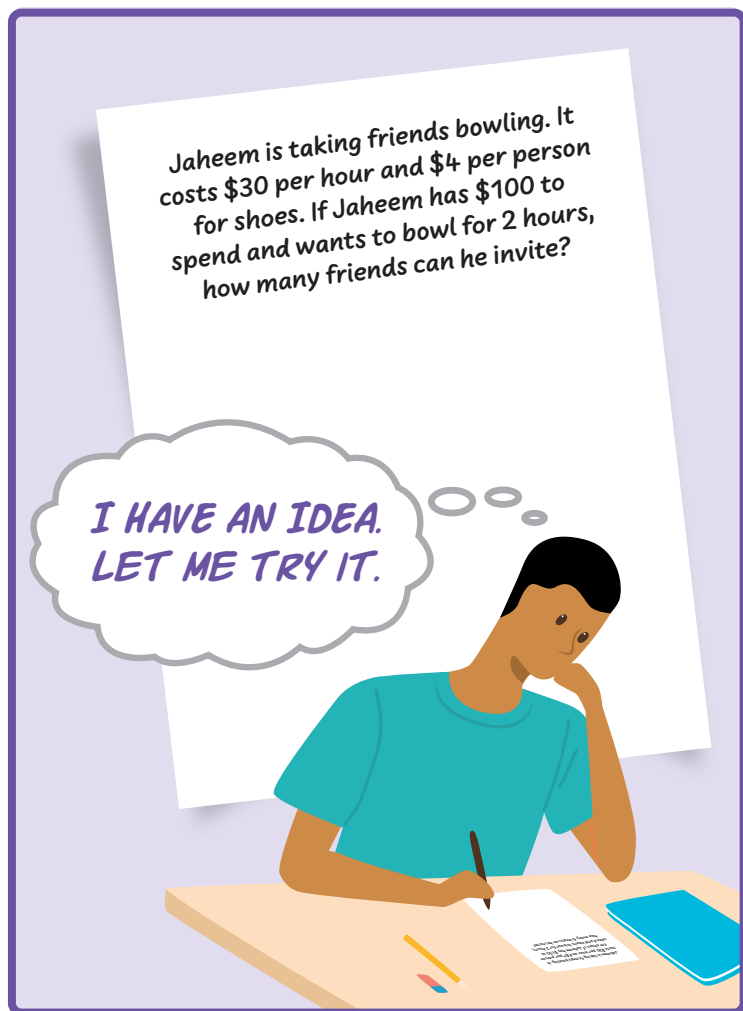
# MY MESSY IDEA

## TRY IT

Before students solve a problem, ask them to record their initial thoughts or rough drafts in a "messy ideas" space.

## WHY TRY IT?

- Develops problem-solving skills
- Helps students find a place to start
- Reduces the pressure for perfection



## TEACHER NOTES

Students' messy ideas might include sketches, notes, questions, symbols, or partial representations. This strategy works with many different problem types and can easily become part of regular problem-solving routines. Make it clear that messy ideas are not graded or evaluated.



### CAUTION

Avoid grading or evaluating students' messy ideas for completeness or accuracy.

