

The Children Who Traveled to Find a Hard Problem

Once there was a man who had a daughter and a son, Tess and Jack. The children were clever and hard-working.



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Jack and Tess could never understand when people said, “I can’t figure that out. It’s a hard problem.” They could always figure out the answer.

Dinner Guests

One evening the family had some dinner guests. The father wanted to set the table. He said, “There are four of us in the family, and we have sixteen guests. How many plates do we need?”



Show your work.

The family needs _____ plates.

Shepherd

Jack and Tess set out from home in search of a hard problem. Soon they came to a shepherd who was sitting with 18 sheep by the roadside. The poor shepherd was crying. Jack asked what was the matter.



The shepherd said, “I have a really hard problem. I am watching 18 sheep for Farmer Bob and Farmer Dan. I know that Bob gave me 12 sheep, but I’ll never figure out how many Dan gave me. It’s too hard!”

Show your work.

Dan gave the shepherd _____ sheep.