

ACTIVITY 5 Writing task

1) Apply the model

Based on the model text “The Paradox of the Eleven Camels,” write three similar stories using the following situations : The 7 Horses, The 15 Goats, and The 17 Horses.

In each story, make sure to :

- introduce the situation clearly,
- explain the problem,
- describe the intervention of the wise person,
- present the solution,
- and end with a short conclusion or moral

Situation 1 : The 7 horses

A farmer leaves 7 horses to his three daughters. He writes :

The first daughter receives $\frac{1}{2}$

The second receives $\frac{1}{4}$

The third receives $\frac{1}{8}$

The daughters argue because they cannot divide 7 horses.

A wise woman adds one horse to make 8 horses.

Now the division is simple :

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 8 = 4

$\frac{1}{4}$ of 8 = 2

$\frac{1}{8}$ of 8 = 1

That makes 7 horses. She takes her horse back.

The daughters understand the solution.

Situation 2 : The Fifteen Goats

A farmer dies and leaves 15 goats to his three sons. In his will, he writes:

The first son must receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the goats.

The second son must receive $\frac{1}{3}$ of the goats.

The third son must receive $\frac{1}{9}$ of the goats.

The sons try to divide the goats, but they cannot do it easily.

A wise neighbour comes to help them. He adds three of his own goats to make 18 goats.

Now the division is simple :

$\frac{1}{2}$ of 18 = 9 goats

$\frac{1}{3}$ of 18 = 6 goats

$\frac{1}{9}$ of 18 = 2 goats

The sons receive 17 goats in total. The neighbour takes back his three goats, and the sons keep their 15 goats. Everyone is satisfied.

Situation 3 : The Seventeen Horses

A rich man leaves 17 horses to his three daughters. In his will, he says:

The first daughter must receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the horses.

The second must receive $\frac{1}{3}$.

The third must receive $\frac{1}{9}$.

The daughters argue because they cannot divide 17 horses according to these fractions.

A wise woman comes to help them. She lends them one horse, so there are now 18 horses. Then she divides the horses:

$1/2$ of 18 = 9 horses

$1/3$ of 18 = 6 horses

$1/9$ of 18 = 2 horses

The daughters receive 17 horses in total. The wise woman then takes back her horse, and the problem is solved.

2)

Option A : Narrative rewriting

Rewrite the story from the point of view of:

the wise man

OR

- one of the sons

(120–150 words)

Option B : Argumentative writing

Write a short paragraph:

“Why creativity is important in problem-solving”

3) Creative task

Create your own paradox

Invent a short paradox story :

- Include a problem
- Make it seem impossible
- Solve it in an unexpected way