

# 1

# Thinking About Math

7.A, B, C, D

There's a lot to know in mathematics. However, it's not enough to know *how* to add, multiply, or divide. When solving problems, it's more important to know *which* one to do and *when*. Suppose you were given this problem:

Trent is 6 years older than Frank. Frank is twice as old as Mary.  
Mary is 8 years old.

How old will Trent be in 2 years?

You need to figure out that you have to multiply and add. You also need to figure out that you have to multiply *before* you add.

We have an acronym to help you: SALSAS<sup>TM</sup>. Here it doesn't stand for a music style or a spicy dip for chips, but instead:



**Skim Ahead**

**Ask Questions**

**Look For Information**

**Solve Problems**

**Asemble Your Answer**

SALSAS<sup>TM</sup> will help you solve math problems. It will also help you with reading, science, or any other subject. That's because it is a **process**—a way of thinking about and answering questions. SALSAS<sup>TM</sup> will help you find the important information, think logically about it, and answer clearly. Now let's try it.

# Thinking About Math

# 1

**Skim Ahead** Look at the question, at any answer choices, and at any drawings. Do this first, before you start solving the problem. When you skim the problem on the previous page, you'll see that it has two steps:

- Finding out how old everyone is now
- Using that information to figure out how old Trent *will be* in 2 years

You have to plan to do *both* steps to get the right answer.

**Ask Questions** Asking the right questions leads you to the answer. You want to ask yourself questions that will help you plan how to solve the problem. For example:

Questions:

What do I need to figure out?

What do I know?

How can I solve the problem?

Answers:

How old Trent will be in 2 years.

I know Mary's age.

I know how old Frank is compared to Mary.

I know how old Trent is compared to Frank.

I can work backwards from what I know to figure out how old they are now.

Then I can figure out how old Trent will be in 2 years.

**Look For Information** Pull together the information you'll need to solve the problem.

Trent is 6 years older than Frank.

Frank is twice as old as Mary.

Mary is 8 years old