

## Back-to-School Math Mayhem

### Answer Key

1. The Pencil Predicament: Ethan kept 6 pencils for himself.  
 $24 \text{ pencils} \div 4 \text{ (Ethan + 3 friends)} = 6 \text{ pencils per person}$
2. Backpack Bonanza: There are 16 items left in Lily's backpack.  
 $8 \text{ notebooks} + 6 \text{ pens} + 3 \text{ folders} + 4 \text{ glue sticks} = 21 \text{ items}; 21 - 5 = 16 \text{ items}$
3. Locker Lockdown: There are now 2 books on the bottom shelf.  
 $5 \text{ books} - 3 \text{ books} = 2 \text{ books}$
4. Lunch Line Logic: There are 8 students in front of Sarah.  
 $15 \text{ students} - 7 \text{ students} = 8 \text{ students}$
5. Classroom Countdown: Mr. Green has 10 balloons left.  
 $30 \text{ balloons} - (4 \text{ balloons} \times 5 \text{ students}) = 30 - 20 = 10 \text{ balloons}$
6. Chalkboard Challenge: There are 39 problems on the chalkboard.  
 $45 \text{ problems} - 18 \text{ problems erased} + 12 \text{ easier problems} = 39 \text{ problems}$
7. Recess Relay: There are now 5 players on the blue team.  
 $9 \text{ blue players} - 4 \text{ players} = 5 \text{ players}$
8. Snack Swap: Chloe has 7 cookies left after the trade.  
 $10 \text{ cookies} - 3 \text{ cookies} = 7 \text{ cookies}$
9. Classroom Pet Perks: There are 13 sunflower seeds left after Tuesday.  
 $16 \text{ seeds} + 14 \text{ seeds} = 30 \text{ seeds}; 9 \text{ seeds} + 8 \text{ seeds} = 17 \text{ seeds eaten}; 30 - 17 = 13 \text{ seeds}$
10. Field Trip Frenzy: 23 students remained on the bus.  
 $32 \text{ students} - 5 \text{ students} - 4 \text{ students} = 23 \text{ students}$