

Student Work

The following provides Grade 3 solutions for the Prize Spinner Task. Students created their spinners and were asked to write a "detailed paragraph that explains the fractions in [their] spinner and the math that went into it." They were also asked what "equivalencies" they noticed. The narratives given for each sample task help provide a portrait of student understanding of equivalent fractions and fractions that sum to one whole.

Grade 3 – Prize Spinner

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The two grade 3 students who created this spinner demonstrate an understanding of equivalent fractions and fractions that sum to 1 whole. Instead of using the term equivalent to describe the relationship of $\frac{4}{12}$, $\frac{2}{6}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$ the students write "they match" and the term "double" is used to indicate multiplying $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{2}$ to



Grade 3

These grade 3 students show an understanding that the fractions used to make the spinner sum to 1 $(\frac{1}{1})$ and that some of the fractions are equivalent to each other. The fractions are said to be equivalent because we "gave them both 1/3." They do not identify the equivalence between 1/6 and 2/12. They also describe the space taken up by 1/6 as "smaller" demonstrating an emerging connections between relative fraction size and the size of the denominator.



Grade 3



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These grade 3 students clearly identify equivalences in their spinner. (1/3 = 4/12), 1/4 = 3/12,..." They also describe the relative size of the spinner segments. There appears to be an error in the number sentence outline in red. Using the fractions listed in the explanation the number sentence would be $\frac{1}{12} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{12}{12}$ There also appears to be a mistake in the spinner labels.