

Naming the Strategy (from a posted list)

- 1 Any reasonable answer accepted
- 0 No attempt or gross misinterpretation relative to work shown

The Answer

- 1 Correct answer(s) shown
- 0 No answer or incorrect answer(s)

Observations which are useful in evaluating students' progress include:

Willingness to attempt solutions

Degree of independence from teacher and peers

Participation

Strengths and/or weaknesses at different stages of the solution process

Reading and/or understanding the problem

Devising a plan for solving the problem

Carrying out the plan

Evaluating whether the answer is reasonable

Perseverance in attempting solutions

Self-confidence

Interest

Merely finding answers to the problems in *Problemoids* is not the objective of the program. Some teachers may want to keep records on students' answers, but this procedure does not necessarily reflect the purpose of the program. It may have the negative effect of tacitly communicating to students that answers are the most important part of the program. Furthermore, the level of difficulty of problems in *Problemoids* generally increases with their sequence in the student book. Therefore, obtaining accurate evaluations only by checking answers could be difficult.

If a school program requires grading students' problem-solving activities, marks of "Satisfactory," "Needs Improvement," and "Unsatisfactory" may be more appropriate than letter grades.

Use of Calculators and Computers

A substantial number of research studies indicate that there are advantages in allowing gifted children to use calculators in problem-solving activities. Students show more positive attitudes about work when using calculators. Students are more effective in choosing and applying productive strategies when using calculators. Students with poor computational skills can participate more fully in solving problems when using calculators. Research also indicates the advantages of allowing use of calculators during tests.

We have used computers successfully in problem-solving activities. We recommend that children who have access to calculators and computers use them in their work in *Problemoids*.