

## DAILY TANTALIZERS: MATH

*Thomas O'Brien, 2003.* Student Journals: \$119.95 for set of 30 spiral-bound journals. Gr. 6: ISBN 0-7406-0341-8; Gr. 7: ISBN 0-7406-0342-6; Gr. 8: ISBN 0-7406-0343-4. Teacher Resource Manuals: \$23.95 each. ETA/Cuisenaire, 500 Greenview Ct., Vernon Hills, IL 60061, (800) 445-5985, [www.etacuisenaire.com](http://www.etacuisenaire.com).

Each of the three books in this series contains 180 problems that involve critical thinking. They are intended for use in the classroom as journal warm-ups or as closing questions. The problems are suitable for almost any group of students since they lend themselves to differentiation within a class. Each problem contains an extension idea to stretch students' thinking. For example, the books contain this sixth-grade problem:

What number am I?

- I have two digits.
- My digits add to 17.
- I am odd.

The extension asks, "Is there a unique answer? What if one of the criteria was deleted?"

A key strength of this set of books is its simplicity for classroom use. The books consist of ready-to-use problems, and the class set of *Student Journals* would further facilitate classroom use. Some of the problems are rather simple, but they sometimes cover challenging topics, such as using variables to generalize a pattern. The book also includes a chart correlating each problem to NCTM's Content and Process Standards. More problems deal with number sense than with any other content area, but additional topics range from estimating measurements to discussing probability concepts. Taking the time to find a precise topic will reveal many activities that provide a fun introduction to a day's lesson.

I found the problems to be useful in leading students to think critically, as our state's standards-based assessment requires.—*Susan Brainerd, Eagle County School District, Eagle, CO 81632.*