Self-Guided Logic Activities #7

Statistics, Impressions, Personification, and Paradoxes

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Unit 19
Percentage Baseball

In playing and watching baseball, statistics are very important. Managers rely on the tendencies of pitchers to throw certain pitches and batters to go after certain kinds of pitches. Every team has statisticians who record just about everything that goes on in a ball game. If you have played much baseball, you know how important fielding, hitting, and pitching statistics are.

Your baseball team has won ten games and lost six, but it is eager to raise its record to .750 (75%). How many games will it have to win in a row to have a .750 record of wins and losses? Use the space below to work out your answer.

How did you solve this problem? Did you use algebra? Show your equation here.

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What are the chances that your team could win that many consecutive games? What major league teams have won that many games in a row this year? Use the Internet or other resource to help you.

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How could this information help your team?

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Student Self-Check
Percentage Baseball

The current winning percentage of the team is 62.5%. It will take eight consecutive wins to push the percentage up to 75%. You can get the answer by adding numbers to the total games won and played and determining that eight consecutive games won will give the team a winning percentage of .750. Or you can work it out quickly by using algebra in this way:

> x = number of games the team must win in a row

$$\frac{10 + x}{16 + x} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$40 + 4x = 48 + 3x$$

$$x = 8$$

$$\frac{10 + 8}{16 + 8} = \frac{18}{24} = .750$$

Unit 20
What's Your Impression?

We receive impressions constantly of what we see, hear, taste, smell, touch, and of movement. Those sensations are important to our safety, to our understanding of what is taking place around us, and to our enjoyment of life. If your senses weren't always giving you information, you would be helpless.

A. When you see a tortoise or read about one, the impressions of durability, age, slowness, or protection may come to your mind. What impressions come to your mind when you think of these things? List five ideas for each item.

1. fog _____
2. ice cream _____
3. a snowflake _____
4. a pair of scissors _____
5. an ocean _____
6. a postage stamp _____
7. an ant _____
8. a broken window _____
9. a mushroom _____
10. an eyelash _____

B. What things in life always cause you to marvel (that is, fill you with wonder and surprise) every time they are brought to your attention? _____

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
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C. Think of some good adjectives that will describe the things you believe to be particularly wonderful. Search your mind (or the dictionary) for adjectives that capture the essence of the things they describe.

                      Marvelous Things   Adjectives

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

Look over the words you listed next to the Marvelous Things you noted above. Are they all adjectives? An *adjective* is a word that modifies a noun or pronoun; it tells something about a person, place, or thing. Essentially, adjectives *describe*. They are valuable in giving us a better idea or a clearer picture of something. To check yourself when it comes to identifying adjectives, underline the adjectives in this haiku.

Overcome by this cold falling rain:

How very similar, my life

To my old friend's.

D. If you would like to do some more thinking about any of the "wonders of life" that you have described, put your thoughts into poetic form. Poetry is one of the most powerful means we have of expressing life's truths, partly because it represents a distillation of our emotions and discoveries. Use the space below to work out your ideas.

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