





Spotlight on Math Models:

## Tape Diagrams

You will often see this mathematical representation in A Story of Units.

will be used through

The tape diagram is a powerful model that students can use to solve various kinds of problems. In second grade, you will often see this model as an aid to addition and simple bar drawing that students make and adjust to fit a word problem. They then use the drawing to discuss and solve the problem.

As students move through the grades, tape diagrams provide an essential bridge to algebra. Below is a sample word problem from Module 2 solved using a tape diagram to show the parts of the problem.

(Example taken from Lesson 3, Module 2)

Robin is 11 years old. Her mother, Gwen, is 2 years more old than Robin.  
How old is Gwen?