Problem of the Week

Operations can be considered a cornerstone to number sense. The following problems address basic operations while highlighting mathematical vocabulary – sum, difference, product. The tasks are meant to be open-ended so that discussion can support understanding.

Be mindful that during these prompts, it is important the teacher listens to student conversations and asks questions that illicit student thinking.

Primary	I have two numbers. Both numbers have two digits. When I subtract the smallest number from the largest, I have a difference of approximately 15. When I add the same two numbers, I have a sum of approximately 80. What could the two numbers be?

Elementary	I have two numbers. One number is a whole number while the other is a decimal number. When I subtract the smallest number from the largest, I have a difference of approximately 30. When I multiply the two numbers, I have a product of greater than 100. What could the two numbers be? What would be the sum of the two numbers?

Intermediate	I have two fractions. When I subtract the smallest from the largest, I have a difference of approximately three-quarters. When I multiply the two fractions, I have a product between 3 and 5. What could the two fractions be? What would be the sum of the two fractions be?