Sue and Julie are running equally fast around a track. Sue started first. When she had run 9 laps, Julie had run three laps. When Julie completed fifteen laps, how many laps had Sue run? (Susan Lamon)

*Jafir:* Oh, this is easy. Let's just set up a proportion and solve it.

Emily. Yeah, let's see. It's 9/3 = x/15. Cross multiplying, we get 3x = 135, so x = 45.

Jesse. It's a whole number, so it must be right. This proportion stuff is really easy—nothing to it. My kids get this cross-muluplying rule pretty quickly. Once they get the numbers set up, it's a piece of cake.

Jair: Yeah: mine, too. It's easy for them as long as the numbers come out nice and neat: They have problems when tractions are involved.

Denille [who has been reading and working on the problem quietly]. You know, I don't think that answer is right. It really doesn't make much sense when you draw a picture of a running track and mentally move the girls around the track.

Jesse. It has to be right. It's a proportion problem: we set up the proportion and did the computation correctly. It's just like the others we have been doing in class:

Emily. No; it isn't. Denille is right. This one is different. You just subtract, then add. Just think about it for a minute.