PROBLEM SOLVED
MAKING SENSE OF MATHEMATICS

Scene		Full Transcript
1	**Kali:**	Hey, what's up? Kali here. I'm downtown at the library, and I just checked out this great book on understanding averages or measures of center. As I was looking around, I noticed some students meeting for their book club.
	Voice-Over Kali:	They're talking about how many books they've read, which ones are their favorites, and who reads the most.
	Kali:	Then it hit me! The book club is a perfect example for understanding what I've been reading about: mean, median, and mode!
		I'll show you and turn the page on another *Problem Solved*!
2	**Kali:**	Let's analyze the book club's data to tell us what is typical, common or average about the number of books the students read.
3	**Voice-Over Kali:**	Club members each kept track of the number of books they read during the month of April. Here is what they reported.
		One way to describe the number of books read by a typical club member is to use the middle number.
4	**Voice-Over Kali:**	We can arrange the number of books read in order from smallest to largest to determine the middle number. This number is called the median. In this case, the median or middle number is six.
5	**Voice-Over Kali:**	Another way to describe the number of books read by a typical club member is to use the number that occurs most often, which is the mode.
		Look at the graph; three students read five books. Five is the most common number, so it's the mode.
6	**Kali:**	You may find that some data sets have two modes, with two numbers equally common. When data sets have two modes, they are described as bimodal.
7	**Voice-Over Kali:**	A third way to describe the number of books read by a typical club member is to use the mean. One way to determine the mean is by equalizing the total number of books read among the nine students. The result is that each column equals seven. So, seven is the mean number of books read. Equalizing helps you visualize what the mean represents. You can see that there are now nine columns of seven, which is 63, the total number of books read.

MakingSense

8	**Voice-Over Kali:**	Another way to find the mean is to add the numbers together and divide by the number of people. With both methods, you are dividing the 63 books equally among the nine members.
9	**Voice-Over Kali:**	We just determined three ways to describe the number of books read by a typical or average club member: the median is six, the mode is five, and the mean is seven.
10	**Kali:**	You'll find that understanding median, mode and mean is helpful when you are analyzing data. See, math is a good read! Problem *solved*.