Here are some problems that I have used with my second graders either this year or last. I teach my students to choose their own numbers for each problem and put the first number on the first line and the second number on the second line. Sometimes I recommend numbers for particular students but they often do a good job of choosing number that will appropriately challenge them.

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Ms. Sims has ___ Skittles. ___ Skittles are red and the rest are yellow. How many yellow Skittles does Ms. Sims have? (20, 8) (38, 18) (45, 28)

Mr. Bassham gave out 307 tickets to second grade students. He gave out 274 tickets to third grade students. How many fewer tickets did third grade get than second grade?

There are ___ pieces of art at the art show. ___ pieces of art are paintings. How many pieces of art are not paintings? (127, 27) (117, 27) (107, 37)
My students struggled with this problem. Part Part Whole, Part Unknown Problems can be challenging even for second graders. We spent a lot of time unpacking this problem. I changed the content to Skittles and they were able to make sense of the problem ☺.

Xavier has ___ pencils and Joshua has ___ pencils. How many pencils do they have altogether? (18, 14)

Ms. Sims has ___ cupcakes. Mrs. White has ___ more than Ms. Sims. How many more cupcakes does Mrs. White have? (2, 5) (5, 10) (8, 16)

___ children and 24 adults saw the movie in the morning. ___ children saw the movie in the afternoon. How many fewer children saw the movie in the afternoon than in the morning? (25, 16) (125, 26) (161, 35)

Madison had some Skittles. She gave ___ Skittles to Kameron. Now Madison has ___ Skittles left. How many Skittles did Madison have to start with? (12, 6) (31, 15) (40, 28)

Alex had ___ leaves. Some of his leaves blew away. Now he has ___ leaves left. How many of his leaves blew away? (25, 5)

Alex had ___ marbles. He gave some to marbles to a friend and has ___ marbles left. How many marbles did Alex give to his friend? (14, 7) (29, 9) (58, 2)

Liam ate ___ red grapes, Madison ate ___ green grapes, and Jai ate ___ green grapes. How many grapes were eaten in all? (12, 12, 6) (26, 26, 8) (70, 75, 105)

Daylon has ___ new army men. His mom gives him ___ more. How many army men does Daylon have now? (10, 9) (10, 90) (25, 75)

There are ___ kids playing on the playground. More kids came to the playground. Now there are ___ kids on the playground. How many more kids came to the playground? (21, 30) (46, 84) (25, 75)

Oliver has ___ rocks in his collection. Jason gave him a box of rocks for his birthday. Now Oliver has ___ rocks in his collection. How many rocks did Jason give to Oliver? (4, 10) (20, 41) (16, 37)

Daniel has ___ rocks for his collection and James has ___ rocks for his collection. James has how many more rocks than Daniel? (5, 10) (10, 20) (20, 40)

Elena has ___ bags of cookies. There are ___ cookies in each bag. How many cookies does Elena have? (2, 5) (2, 10) (5, 3)

I made a big pan of brownies. There are ___ rows and ___ pieces in each row. How many pieces were in the pan? (3, 5) (6,15)

Abigail is putting stickers in her sticker album. Each page can hold ___ stickers. She has ___ stickers. How many pages will she use? (6, 24) (5, 30)

There are ___ cards in the complete collection of baseball cards. Max has ___ cards. How many cards does he need to complete his collection? (20, 8) (88,70)

A notebook cost ___¢. Pencils cost ___¢. Micha needs to buy one notebook and two pencils. How much will Micah spend on these supplies? (43, 10) (67, 20) (85, 6)

Logan had $___. She earned $___ from her mom. How much money does Logan have now? (35.00, 26.00) (38.00, 57.00)