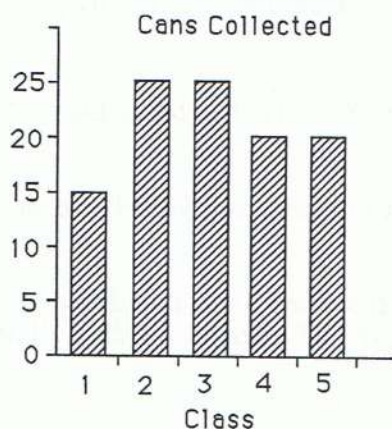


# Commentary

Mars, X

1. **(2/13; 5/13)** It might help students to draw the correct number of each shape mentioned, then look at them as parts of a total set. 2 figures out of 13 figures are squares; 5 figures out of 13 are circles.
2. **(c)** The figures can be traced and then cut out of paper, for students to set how (c) folds into a box. Students who can do this problem without such an aid have very good spatial sense.
3. **(4; 7)** Line segments do not include curved lines. Therefore 2, 3, and 5 are eliminated.
4. **(\$2.25)** The problem tests a student's number sense and knowledge of the real world. \$10.25 would be too much for twelve pencils -- that would be almost \$1 per pencil. Likewise, 10¢ is too little -- that would be less than a penny per pencil. \$2.25 is the only reasonable answer -- this would be almost 20¢ per pencil.
5. **(35 minutes)** Students are likely to start at 7:00 and add on a half-hour to get 7:30, and then add on the other intervals individually to arrive at 7:55 when she's through. This leaves her 5 minutes till 8:00 arrives to read, and 30 minutes after that, totally 35 minutes.

6.



7. **(21)** The problem is an intuitive introduction to finding the mean of a collection. At this point, students will simply add the number of cans together to get 105, then use their intuition and number sense to divide 105 cans into 5 groups. One concrete way would be to make 105 marks on their paper and divide these marks fairly. A more sophisticated strategy would be to estimate that each group would have 20, which would be 100 marks altogether, then distribute the remaining five marks.
8. **(128)** Have the problem  $4 \times 32$  written on chart paper or index cards so that several students can see it at the same time, when they turn their papers in. They have to do the problem mentally, and put their answers correctly on their papers.
9. **(8)** This problem is an introduction to the concept of *ratio*. Students might find the answer by drawing the tables and placing the right number of markers on each, until they have used up 24 markers. This would require four tables. Then they would draw 2 pieces of poster board on each table.