The Santos Family Vacation (page 1 of 2)

Ms. Santos is a third-grade teacher. Last summer she took her children, Keisha and Edwin, to visit their grandparents. Ms. Santos set the car's trip meter at 0 before leaving. After driving 36 miles, the family stopped at the Pinecrest Diner for lunch.

Ms. Santos didn't want to stop again, but an hour after leaving the diner, she noticed that the gas gauge was almost on empty. She pulled into the next gas station. The trip meter read 79 miles.

"Keisha," said Ms. Santos, "I have a math problem for you."

Keisha had been waiting for this moment. "Okay, Mom. I'm ready," she replied, looking at her brother and trying not to giggle.

"When we stopped at the diner for lunch, the trip meter showed that we had traveled 36 miles. Now the number on the trip meter is 79. How far did we travel from the diner to the gas station?"

Keisha closed her eyes and thought about this question. "I know! I know that we've traveled . . ." Unfortunately, Keisha's answer was drowned out by the sound of a driver starting the engine of a huge tractor trailer.

The Santos Family Vacation (page 2 of 2)

Edwin knew that his turn was coming and, sure enough, Ms. Santos had a question for him as well.

"Edwin, if we stop again at 100 miles, how much farther will we have traveled? Remember that we've gone 79 miles so far."

Edwin thought hard and wrote some numbers in the notebook he always took with him on his travels.

"I figured it out, Mom," said Edwin. "From the gas station to the 100 mile mark would be . . ."

Edwin's answer was interrupted when the gas station attendant knocked on the window to collect the money.

The Santos family set off again. Edwin and Keisha played license plate games in the back seat, and before they knew it, they had arrived at their grandparents' house. The trip meter read 128 miles.