# Answers and talk notes

Describe Data Using the Mean

### What your student is learning

Tonight we find the mean of a data set, and we explain the mean two ways: as the fair share and as the balance point of the data.

## Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **A.** 6. 4 + 6 + 8 = 18 and 18 ÷ 3 = 6.
2. **B.** Add all the values, then divide by how many values there are. To find the mean, add all the values, then divide by how many values there are. So the answer is: Add all the values, then divide by how many values there are.
3. **C.** 4. 2 + 2 + 5 + 7 = 16 and 16 ÷ 4 = 4.
4. **B.** 6. 3 + 5 + 6 + 10 = 24 cards, and 24 ÷ 4 = 6 each. The fair share is the mean.
5. **A.** The amount above 7 and the amount below 7 balance out. 3 is 4 below 7 and 11 is 4 above 7, so the amount above and below balance out. So the answer is: The amount above 7 and the amount below 7 balance out.

### Talk about it

Does 44 describe one typical reader, or all four readers together?

### Home mission

Make four small piles of crackers or coins: 2, 5, 3 and 6. Ask your student to guess the fair share. Then slide pieces until all four piles match.

### When they are stuck, ask

- What is the total of all the values?
- How many values are there?
- If everyone got the same amount, how much would that be?

### Try not to say

- The mean is the middle number.
- Divide by the biggest value.
- You do not need to add them all first.