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To Dave and my children,  
Alexis and Venissa

**1**

## The Chicken, the Corn, and the Fox

A man comes to a river he must cross. He needs to take his chicken, his corn, and his fox across, but the boat can hold only one item besides himself. He cannot leave the fox alone with the chicken or the fox will eat the chicken, and he cannot leave the chicken alone with the corn or the chicken will eat the corn. How can he take them across? (The fox does not like corn.)

**2**

## A Family Problem

A family wants to cross a river in a boat that holds no more than 250 lbs. The husband weighs 160 lbs. His wife weighs 130 lbs. The daughter weighs 85 lbs., and the son weighs 115 lbs. How can they all get across in the fewest number of trips?

How will the answer change if you cannot leave the smallest child, the daughter, alone at any time?