What Do You Do With the Poor Remainder?
Grade 4 Math/Music
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Standard 4.OA.3
Solve multi-step word problems posed with whole numbers and having whole-number answers using the four operations, including problems in which remainders must be interpreted.

Standard 4.M.P.4:
Sing folk, traditional, and call-and-response songs in tune, with good vocal tone and clear diction.

Objective: During a math lesson on division with remainders, students will learn a song to familiar music, focusing on ways that one can interpret the remainder in a division problem.

Equipment and Materials needed:
Copy of song verses.
Or you may choose to use the sheet music: https://www.8notes.com/scores/11329.asp
It is probably not a song that we want them to learn the true words to, so it is best to teach just the music! It is a classic sea shanty, but I like my words better.

Introduction:

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE POOR REMAINDER?
What do you do with the poor remainder,
What do you do with the poor remainder,
What do you do with the poor remainder,
When you do division?

Sometimes you drop it altogether,
Sometimes you drop it altogether,
Sometimes you drop it altogether
When you do division!
Sometimes you round it up one higher,
Sometimes you round it up one higher
Sometimes you round it up one higher, When you do division!

Sometimes it’s pennies on the dollar,
Sometimes it’s pennies on the dollar,
Sometimes it’s pennies on the dollar, When you do division!

Is it a fraction of the whole (wh-ole)?
Is it a fraction of the whole (wh-ole)?
Is it a fraction of the whole (wh-ole)? When you do division?

Maybe the remainder is the answer.
Maybe the remainder is the answer.
Maybe the remainder is the answer. When you do division