Schumaker's Sure-Fire Strategy for Successfully Solving Some (Stressful) Statement Problems

1. Identify/record the unknown(s).

2. Assign a variable (expression for each unknown)*.

3. Identify/record the knowns (given info) using phrases, pictures, diagrams, tables, etc.

4. Determine/write a relationship (*e.g.*, an equation) between the unknown & known quantities.

5. Solve the relation, then use the solution as needed to answer the original problem (refer back to step 1).

☞ *If there are two (or more) unknowns to be solved for, assign a variable to one unknown and represent the other(s) with expressions which involve that variable (*i.e.*, by how they relate to the labeled unknown)...

Little strokes fell great oaks...