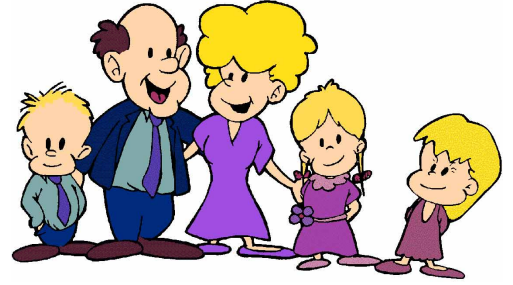## Problem

Use the numbers 2, 3, 6, 8, 33, 35, 85 to fill in the blanks in the story.

Bev and Mike have three children, John, Jennifer, and Robin. Bev is the oldest member of the family, age _____ years. Robin is _____ times as old as Jennifer, who is _____ years old. John is _____ years old, Robin is _____ years old, and their Dad is _____ years old. The sum of all their ages is _____ years.

Hints

Hint 1 - What number is the only reasonable one for the last blank?
OR Which blank in the story should be filled with 85?

Hint 2 - Who is the oldest? Which number should represent her age?

Solution

The blanks should be filled, in order, with <u>35</u> (Bev's age), <u>2</u>, <u>3</u> (Jennifer's age), <u>8</u> (John's age), <u>6</u> (Robin's age), <u>33</u> (Mike's age), and <u>85</u> (the sum $3 + 6 + 8 + 33 + 35$).

Note: There are two possibilities for Robin and Jennifer: since $6 = 3 \times 2$, Robin could be 6 and Jennifer 2 years old, or Robin could be 6 and Jennifer 3 years old. The proper choice is determined by the sum, 85 years, since $85 = 35 + 33 + 8 + 6 + 3$.