Problem of the Week
Problem A and Solution
Books, Books, Books

Problem

The pictograph below shows how many books five students have each read this month. Each represents a fixed number of books.

Student	Books Read
Xuan	
Javya	
Natasha	
Sanan	
Brandon	

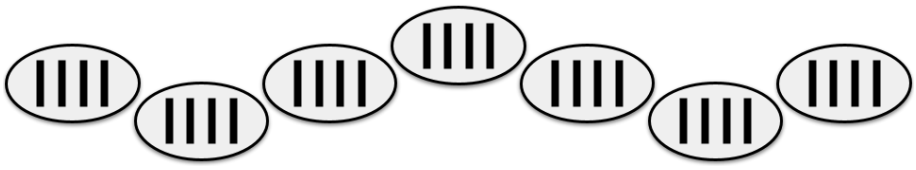
(a) Brandon read 28 books this month. How many books does each represent in the pictograph?

(b) How many books were read in total by these students this month?

Solution

(a) Since Brandon has 7 , we can skip count by 7s until we get to 28. Doing this gives 7, 14, 21, 28. This means that each represents 4 books read by a student.

Alternatively, we could use a fair share strategy to determine how many books each represents. We draw seven ovals, and add a tally to each oval one at a time until 28 tallies have been distributed. Then we end up with 4 tallies in each oval, which means that each represents 4 books.



(b) Since each represents 4 books read, we know that Xuan read $5 \times 4 = 20$ books, Javya read $3 \times 4 = 12$ books, Natasha read $10 \times 4 = 40$ books, Sanan read $4 \times 4 = 16$ books, and Brandon read $7 \times 4 = 28$ books.

Thus, in total these students read $20 + 12 + 40 + 16 + 28 = 116$ books.