

## Can It Be?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

In *The Phantom Tollbooth*, 0.58 of a child tells Milo that being a fraction of a person is really quite lucky. He says, “Every average family has 2.58 children, so I always have someone to play with.”

Can it be?

1. Explain what it means to have an average of 2.58 children in each family. Why is this average not necessarily a whole number?
2. Milo also learns how **useful** averages can be: “For instance, if you didn’t have any money at all, but you happened to be with four other people who had ten dollars apiece, then you’d each have a mean average of eight dollars.” Can it be? Explain.
3. Where else are averages used in everyday life? Look in a recent newspaper (or online newspaper source) for any mention of an average. Describe what the average means in that situation.

