Commentary
Venus, XIII

1. (**Rope = 54¢,   Quilt = 79¢, answers will vary**) Students will enjoy adding up the values of certain familiar words, as practice for this problem. They will enjoy seeing whose name "costs the most," and so on. Note that some students may interpret "Your first name" as finding the value of those three words, which is 184¢.

2. (**A. 8   B. 13   C. 6**) Students need to count <u>all</u> the stars in the given shapes. This is a Venn diagram-type problem.

3. (**Tiger**) The tiger weighs more than the bear because his side of the scale is lower. A balance scale will be used in many problems in Superstars in the years to come, as it provides a physical model of an equation.

4. (**The ornament and pencil.**) This problem involves symmetry. The ornament has a vertical line of symmetry, and the pencil has a horizontal line of symmetry. It is interesting to see if students color one of these two but not the other, i.e., do they more easily see one type of line of symmetry than the other type?

5. (**C: 4 meters**) Visual estimation is the key to success with this problem. If it's 2 meters from Susan's to George's house, then it's about that same distance from George's to Mary's and from Mary's to Barry's. So it's about 4 meters from George's to Barry's house.

6. (**6**) Students who have trouble with this problem can approach it in one of several ways. The way used most often is to simply trace the paths with their finger, and try to count them as they go to a new one. Hopefully they will try an organized approach to this problem, such as using only path A and seeing how many ways there are, then moving to B and seeing how many ways there are. Students might try making an organized list, such as: AC, AD, AE, BC, BD, BE.