Example of Completed Think-Aloud, Grade 3

This think-aloud for solving a word problem specifically focuses on finding the area of a rectangle. When using a think-aloud, the teacher must vocalize the thought processes required to complete the task. When you begin using think-alouds, it is often helpful to write a script of the process required to perform the task. As experts in our content, it is sometimes difficult to verbalize all our actions.

"A rectangular garden has a length of 15 meters and a width of 10 meters. What is the area of the garden?"

Reading the problem	*OK, let's start by reading the problem carefully. The problem says there is a rectangular garden with a length of 15 meters and a width of 10 meters. I need to find the area of this garden.*
Understanding the terms	*I know that the area of a rectangle is found by multiplying the length by the width. Area is the amount of space inside the rectangle, so if I know the length and width, I can find out how much space there is inside the garden.*
Identifying the important information	*The problem gives me two important pieces of information: The length of the garden is 15 meters, and the width is 10 meters. These are the two numbers I need to multiply to find the area.*
Setting up the calculation	*Now, I'll set up the multiplication. The formula for the area of a rectangle is area = length × width. So, in this case, it's area = 15 meters × 10 meters.*
Performing the calculation	*I'll multiply 15 by 10. I know that 15 times 10 equals 150. So, the area of the garden is 150 square meters.*
Double-checking the work	*Let me double-check my work to make sure I didn't make a mistake. I used the formula correctly, and I multiplied the numbers correctly. 15 times 10 is definitely 150. So, I'm confident the area of the garden is 150 square meters.*
Conclusion	*The answer to the problem is that the area of the garden is 150 square meters. I feel good about this because I used the right formula and double-checked my work.*
Reflection	*I think I did a good job following the steps for solving this problem. I made sure to understand what the problem was asking, identified the important numbers, and used the correct formula. If I get a similar problem in the future, I'll remember to multiply the length and width to find the area.*