

A great fraction problem

This is an old chestnut, but I imagine there are some new chestnuts reading this list who haven't ever seen it. It is a nice little problem to give the cherubs when they are studying fractions.

Two centurions were sitting by the side of the road, thinking about having lunch. Cicero had three loaves of bread and Augustus had two loaves of bread. Octavius came walking along the road, and being kind chaps, Cicero and Augustus offered to share their bread equally between the three of them. After the meal Octavius insisted on paying for his share, with five pieces of silver.

How should Cicero and Augustus divide the five pieces of silver?

Answer: Cicero should get 4 pieces, Augustus 1.