Teacher Talk for Problem-Posing Extensions

After the students have shared about 10 observations (including at least 6-7 mathematical ones) and they have been recorded, demonstrate how to create some problem extensions. For instance:

If one of the observations was "There were two people in the story," you might say, "Let's try to change some of these parts of the story to make a different problem. We can do this by saying these important words: 'What if.' So if there were two people in the story we might say, 'What if there were 3 people in the story, and they each owned 8 cows? How many cows would there be then? What if there were 4 people? 5?" Of course, another variation of this same observation is "What if there were 4 people and still 16 cows? How would they share those cows? What if there were 8 people sharing 16 cows?"