Problem 1 – Factoring a perfect-square trinomial

Any trinomial of the form $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ is a perfect-square trinomial. If you recognize a perfect-square trinomial, you can factor it immediately as $(a + b)^2$.

- What is the area of the square you formed on page 1.4.

- Where have you seen this trinomial before?

Problem 2 – Factoring a difference of squares

Any trinomial of the form $a^2 – 2ab + b^2$ is a perfect-square trinomial. If you recognize a perfect-square trinomial, you can factor it immediately as $(a – b)(a + b)$.

- What is the area of each shape on page 2.2?

- Find the area of the long, shaded rectangle you formed on page 2.7.