Literal and Nonliteral Language

Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer, or write your answer on the lines.

1. What does “a piece of cake” mean? “The spelling test was a piece of cake for Lily.”
   It was very easy. It was a dessert. It was very hard.

2. What does “raining cats and dogs” mean? “We stayed inside because it was raining cats and dogs.”
   It was a little cloudy.
   It was raining very hard.
   Pets were falling from the sky.

3. Which sentence is literal?
   The cat slept on the rug. Ben has a heart of gold. My backpack weighs a ton.

4. What does “under the weather” mean? “Kofi stayed home because he felt under the weather.”
   He felt very happy. He felt sick. He stood under a cloud.

5. What does “butterflies in her stomach” mean? “Before the play, Ava had butterflies in her stomach.”
   She felt nervous.
   Butterflies flew around her.
   She felt sleepy.

6. Which sentence is nonliteral?
   My little brother is six years old.
   My little brother likes to talk.
   My little brother is a chatterbox.

7. What does “zip your lip” mean? “Zip your lip during the movie, please.”
   Close your jacket. Eat your snack. Be quiet.

8. What does “in hot water” mean? “Sam was in hot water for leaving his bike in the rain.”
   He took a warm bath. He was very thirsty. He was in trouble.

9. What does “keep an eye on” mean? “Please keep an eye on your little sister.”
   Watch her carefully. Give her a toy. Put your eye near her.

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means very easy. Then tell what it means. Draft: The math game was very easy.

_____

_____

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet - Building Confidence

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Example: The math game was a piece of cake. It means it was very easy.