Literal and Nonliteral Language

Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

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

1. What does “a sweet tooth” mean? “Grandpa has a sweet tooth and loves cookies.”

   He has a sugary tooth.

   He just lost a tooth.

   He loves sweet foods.

   He brushes his teeth a lot.

2. What does “see eye to eye” mean? “Ben and his sister do not see eye to eye about pets.”

   They do not look at each other.

   They both love pets.

   They do not agree.

   They cannot see well.

3. Which sentence is nonliteral?

   The classroom was a zoo after the party.

   The class visited a zoo after the party.

   The classroom had a fish tank.

   The classroom was loud after the party.

4. Which words help show what “down in the dumps” means? “Ella was down in the dumps and cried after her team lost.”

   Ella was in the cried after her team lost team

5. What does “bite off more than you can chew” mean? “Lily bit off more than she could chew when she joined four clubs.”

   She joined the wrong club.

   She took on too much to do.

   She ate a huge bite.

   She did not like the clubs.

6. Which sentence is literal?

The baby was the apple of Mom's eye.

The baby cried her eyes out.

The baby was a little angel.

The baby slept in her crib.

7. What does “drop everything” mean? “When the alarm rang, we had to drop everything.”

Stop what we were doing right away.

Throw our books on the floor.

Clean the room quickly.

Let go of what was in our hands.

8. What does “on thin ice” mean? “After forgetting his homework twice, Omar was on thin ice.”

He did a great job.

He was close to getting in trouble.

He felt very cold.

He was skating on a pond.

9. What does “keep your chin up” mean? “Keep your chin up. You will do better next time.”

Stay hopeful. Stop talking. Look at the sky. Sit up straight.

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means being in trouble. Then tell what it means. Draft: Theo was in trouble for being late.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

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Draft: Theo was in trouble for being late.

Example: Theo was on thin ice for being late. It means he was close to bigger trouble.