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 “hit the hay” mean? “After the long trip, Grandpa wanted to hit the hay.”

   He wanted to feed the horses.

   He wanted to hit a pile of hay.

   He wanted to go to sleep.

2. What does “a fish out of water” mean? “On her first day at a new school, Mei felt like a fish out of water.”

   She felt out of place. She went swimming. She felt very wet.

3. Which sentence is literal?

   Our dog is a couch potato.

   Our dog is the apple of my eye.

   Our dog barked at the mail truck.

4. What does “lend a hand” mean? “Can you lend a hand with these boxes?”

   Can you help?

   Can you give away your hand?

   Can you wave hello?

5. What does “cold feet” mean? “Leo got cold feet and did not try out for the team.”

   He got too nervous to do it.

   His feet felt cold.

   He got a new pair of socks.

6. Which sentence is nonliteral?

   Rosa's room is a pigsty.

   Rosa's room is very messy.

   Rosa's room has a pig poster.

7. What does “all ears” mean? “Tell me your story. I am all ears!”

I cannot hear you. I am ready to listen. I have very big ears.

8. What does “on cloud nine” mean? “Theo was on cloud nine after he won the race.”

He was very tired. He was flying in a plane. He was very happy.

9. What does “copycat” mean? “Stop being a copycat and draw your own picture!”

someone who is very quiet someone who copies others a cat that draws

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means going to sleep. Then tell what it means.
Draft: It was late, so I went to bed.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet - Building Confidence

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_____

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Example: It was late, so I hit the hay. It means I went to sleep.