Literal and Nonliteral Language

Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

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

1. Which words help show what “cost an arm and a leg” means? “The new bike cost an arm and a leg, so Dad saved money for months.”

   The new bike Dad saved money for months so an arm

2. What does “let the cat out of the bag” mean? “Nora let the cat out of the bag about the class trip.”

   She opened a bag. She found a lost cat. She packed for the trip.

   She told the secret.

3. Which sentence is literal?

   Diego broke the ice at the party.

   Diego is a night owl.

   Diego was all thumbs.

   Diego broke a glass in the kitchen.

4. What does “the ball is in your court” mean? “I gave you two ideas. Now the ball is in your court.”

   You need to find the ball. It is your turn to decide. The game is over.

   The ball rolled to you.

5. What does “once in a blue moon” mean? “We eat at that restaurant once in a blue moon.”

   very rarely only when the moon is blue every week every night

6. What does “hit the nail on the head” mean? “Priya hit the nail on the head when she named the problem.”

   She was exactly right. She was totally wrong. She used a hammer.

   She hurt her head.

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

He loves sweet foods.

He brushes his teeth a lot.

He has a sugary tooth.

He just lost a tooth.

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

They do not agree.

They cannot see well.

They do not look at each other.

They both love pets.

9. Which sentence is nonliteral?

The classroom had a fish tank.

The classroom was loud after the party.

The class visited a zoo after the party.

The classroom was a zoo after the party.

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means telling a secret. Then tell what it means. Draft: Mia told everyone about the surprise.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

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Draft: Mia told everyone about the surprise.

Example: Mia spilled the beans about the surprise. It means she told the secret.