# 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 “under the weather” mean? “Kofi stayed home because he felt under the weather.”

   He felt very happy. He stood under a cloud. He felt sick.

2. What does “butterflies in her stomach” mean? “Before the play, Ava had butterflies in her stomach.”

   She felt sleepy.

   Butterflies flew around her.

   She felt nervous.

3. Which sentence is nonliteral?

   My little brother is six years old.

   My little brother is a chatterbox.

   My little brother likes to talk.

4. What does “zip your lip” mean? “Zip your lip during the movie, please.”

   Eat your snack. Be quiet. Close your jacket.

5. What does “in hot water” mean? “Sam was in hot water for leaving his bike in the rain.”

   He was in trouble. He was very thirsty. He took a warm bath.

6. What does “keep an eye on” mean? “Please keep an eye on your little sister.”

   Put your eye near her. Watch her carefully. Give her a toy.

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

   He wanted to go to sleep.

   He wanted to hit a pile of hay.

   He wanted to feed the horses.

8. 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.

9. Which sentence is literal?

Our dog is the apple of my eye.

Our dog is a couch potato.

Our dog barked at the mail truck.

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.**