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 “down in the dumps” means? “Ella was down in the dumps and cried after her team lost.”

   cried after her team lost in the team Ella was

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

   She did not like the clubs.

   She ate a huge bite.

   She joined the wrong club.

   She took on too much to do.

3. Which sentence is literal?

   The baby slept in her crib.

   The baby was the apple of Mom's eye.

   The baby was a little angel.

   The baby cried her eyes out.

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

   Stop what we were doing right away.

   Let go of what was in our hands.

   Clean the room quickly.

   Throw our books on the floor.

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

   He felt very cold.

   He did a great job.

   He was skating on a pond.

   He was close to getting in trouble.

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

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

7. What does “break the ice” mean? “Ms. Ruiz told a joke to break the ice on the first day.”

She made the room cold.

She cracked some ice.

She helped everyone feel relaxed.

She ended the class early.

8. What does “spill the beans” mean? “Don't spill the beans about Mom's surprise party!”

Don't tell the secret. Don't drop the beans. Don't forget the party.

Don't cook the beans.

9. Which sentence is nonliteral?

Jamal put books on the shelf.

Jamal hit the books all weekend.

Jamal read three books all weekend.

Jamal carried his books home.

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.