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 “lend a hand” mean? “Can you lend a hand with these boxes?”

   Can you help?

   Can you wave hello?

   Can you give away your hand?

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

   His feet felt cold.

   He got too nervous to do it.

   He got a new pair of socks.

3. Which sentence is nonliteral?

   Rosa's room has a pig poster.

   Rosa's room is very messy.

   Rosa's room is a pigsty.

4. 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.

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

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

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

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

7. What does “a piece of cake” mean? “The spelling test was a piece of cake for Lily.”

   It was very easy. It was a dessert. It was very hard.

8. What does “raining cats and dogs” mean? “We stayed inside because it was raining cats and dogs.”

It was a little cloudy.

Pets were falling from the sky.

It was raining very hard.

9. Which sentence is literal?

Ben has a heart of gold. My backpack weighs a ton. The cat slept on the rug.

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