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

   Close your jacket. Be quiet. Eat your snack.

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

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

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

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

4. 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 feed the horses.

   He wanted to hit a pile of hay.

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

6. Which sentence is literal?

   Our dog barked at the mail truck.

   Our dog is a couch potato.

   Our dog is the apple of my eye.

7. 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?

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

He got too nervous to do it.

He got a new pair of socks.

His feet felt cold.

9. Which sentence is nonliteral?

Rosa's room is very messy.

Rosa's room is a pigsty.

Rosa's room has a pig poster.

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.