

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Literal and Nonliteral Language

ANSWERS

An **idiom** is a saying or expression that has a different meaning than the **literal** meaning of the words. Idioms have a **nonliteral**, or figurative meaning.

**Example:** It is raining cats and dogs!

Nonliteral → It is raining very hard.

Literal → There are cats and dogs coming out of the sky.

**Directions:** Read the passage with the underlined idiom. Use context clues to determine the nonliteral meaning of the idiom, and record it in the chart. Then, complete the sentence frame.

1. At the sleepover, my friends and I will eat cake, cookies, chips, and candy. I plan to pig out!

Literal

to put a pig outside

Nonliteral

to eat a lot of food

The literal meaning of the phrase is to put a pig outside

\_\_\_\_\_ , and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is to eat a lot of food . I

know the nonliteral meaning is to eat a lot of food

because the text says that the friends will eat cake, cookies, chips, and candy .

2. The young girl was gentle and kind to everyone. She would not hurt a fly!

Literal

to not harm a fly

Nonliteral

not cause anyone harm, be nice to everyone

The literal meaning of the phrase is to not harm a fly

\_\_\_\_\_ , and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is to be nice

to everyone . I

know the nonliteral meaning is to be nice to everyone

because the text says the girl is gentle and kind .

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3. The class clown started telling jokes when we were trying to learn math. She made a lot of us laugh.

Literal

a clown in the classroom

Nonliteral

a student who tries to make others laugh

The literal meaning of the phrase is a clown in the classroom

\_\_\_\_\_, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is a student who tries to make others laugh.

I know the nonliteral meaning is a student who tries to make others laugh because the text says the class clown was telling jokes and other students laughed.

4. I am a night owl. When I have a test, I stay up very late at night to study.

Literal

an owl that is out at night

Nonliteral

someone who stays up late at night

The literal meaning of the phrase is an owl that is out at night

\_\_\_\_\_, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is someone who stays up late at night.

I know the nonliteral meaning is someone who stays up late at night because the text says the person likes to study late at night to get ready for a test.