

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

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Answer Key

## Making Sense of Figurative Language 1

### What is Figurative Language?

\*a tool that authors use to help readers visualize what is happening in a story or poem. The words and phrases mean something different than they normally do.

**Example:** He ran as fast as a cheetah. (This compares a boy and a cheetah. It is saying that they both run fast. However, a cheetah runs about 70mph. That is not humanly possible for a boy to do!)

**Directions:** Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.

1. On Friday afternoon, the doorbell rang. Ricky ran to the front door to see if his package arrived. He was so excited that he flew open the door. He didn't even think about his dog, Shadow. Shadow darted out the door. He was down the street in a blink of the eye. Luckily, the mailman noticed the dog as it sprinted past him. The mailman chased after Shadow, grabbed his collar, and walked him back to Ricky. Phew, that was close!

1. What is the meaning of the underlined words? To do something in the blink of an eye means to do it very quickly.

The dog was running very quickly.

2. Garrett and Jeffrey took turns at the hoop practicing their free throws. Usually Garrett sunk his free throw shots with no trouble, but something was off today. He had not made a single shot. Jeffrey was on fire, though! He made every single free throw shot from the line. Coach McElroy noticed and came to talk to Garrett. "If you adjust your feet," he said, "your shot will go straight." To Garrett's surprise, he made the rest of his free throws!

2. What is the meaning of the underlined words? To be on fire means to do something very well. Jeffrey was doing

a great job since he was making all his shots.

3. Maci knew she had earned some good grades and some bad grades. Even though Maci knew her parents would be disappointed, she always followed the rules. She would give them the report card when she got home. When she arrived home, she realized that the report card was not in her binder when she got off the bus. She must have lost it somewhere! Instead of panicking, she made a plan. Maci decided to talk to her teacher about it the next day. Her teacher smiled from ear to ear. She thanked her for being responsible. She printed Maci a new report card to take home.

3. What is the meaning of the underlined words? To smile from ear to ear means that it's a big, happy smile. This

shows that the teacher was pleased with Maci's responsible decision to ask for another report card.

4. Sebastian was forgetful. A few times a week, he forgot to bring his lunch to school. His mom would have to bring his lunch up to school. He often forgot his homework at home, too. It was no surprise when Sebastian went home and told his mom that he lost his favorite red sweatshirt. Normally, it did not bother him when he forgot things, but this time it did. He loved the sweatshirt. Sebastian's mom brought him up to the school so he could look around outside. He searched high and low for the sweatshirt. When he found it, he realized it was dirtier than a pig in mud.

4. What is the meaning of the underlined words? To search high and low means to look everywhere for

something. Sebastian looked all over the place for his sweatshirt.

5. What is the meaning of the underlined words? If something is dirtier than a pig in mud, it is extremely dirty.

Sebastian's sweatshirt was very dirty.