

Name: _____

Date: _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

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	Nonliteral
to put a pig outside	

The literal meaning of the phrase is _____

_____, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is _____

_____. I

know the nonliteral meaning is _____

because _____.

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

Literal	Nonliteral
to not harm a fly	

The literal meaning of the phrase is _____

_____, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is _____

_____. I

know the nonliteral meaning is _____

because _____.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

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.

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

Literal

Nonliteral

a clown
in the
classroom

The literal meaning of the phrase is _____

_____, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is _____

_____. I

know the nonliteral meaning is _____

because _____.

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

Literal

Nonliteral

an owl
that is out
at night

The literal meaning of the phrase is _____

_____, and the nonliteral meaning of the phrase is _____

_____. I

know the nonliteral meaning is _____

because _____.