Idioms

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: An **idiom** is a saying that means something **different** from its words. *It's raining cats and dogs* means it's raining very hard, not that animals are falling!

Ask: Could this really happen? If not, it's probably an idiom. Use the rest of the sentence to find the meaning.

1. What does it mean?

Circle the real meaning of the idiom in each sentence.

1. Don't worry about the test. It's a piece of cake!

(a) It is very easy. (b) It is a dessert. (c) It is very hard.

2. I'm feeling under the weather today, so I'm staying home.

(a) I'm outside in the rain. (b) I'm feeling sick. (c) I'm very happy.

3. Mom said, "Hold your horses! Wait for me."

(a) Slow down and wait. (b) Ride a horse. (c) Feed the horses.

4. Sam let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

(a) He opened a bag. (b) He told the secret. (c) He bought a cat.

5. Grandpa said, "Time to hit the hay."

(a) Time to go to bed. (b) Time to feed the cows. (c) Time to play outside.

6. Tickets to the show cost an arm and a leg.

(a) They were very expensive. (b) They hurt. (c) They were free.

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2. Draw or explain

What would the idiom look like if it were real? What does it really mean?

1. **It's raining cats and dogs.**

Answer Key

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1. What does it mean?

1. **Don't worry about the test. It's a piece of cake!**
   (a) **It is very easy.** (b) It is a dessert. (c) It is very hard.

2. **I'm feeling under the weather today, so I'm staying home.**
   (a) I'm outside in the rain. (b) **I'm feeling sick.** (c) I'm very happy.

3. **Mom said, "Hold your horses! Wait for me."**
   (a) **Slow down and wait.** (b) Ride a horse. (c) Feed the horses.

4. **Sam let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.**
   (a) He opened a bag. (b) **He told the secret.** (c) He bought a cat.

5. **Grandpa said, "Time to hit the hay."**
   (a) **Time to go to bed.** (b) Time to feed the cows. (c) Time to play outside.

6. **Tickets to the show cost an arm and a leg.**
   (a) **They were very expensive.** (b) They hurt. (c) They were free.

2. Draw or explain

Answers will vary.

1. **It's raining cats and dogs.**
   If it were real, cats and dogs would fall from the sky. It really means it is raining very hard.