Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Does the sentence mean just what it says? Circle yes or no.

Ana let the cat out of the bag about the party.	yes	no
I held the baby bird in my hands.	yes	no
Hold your horses! The bus is not here yet.	yes	no
The horse ate an apple from my hand.	yes	no
Dad is under the weather today.	yes	no
We built a snow fort in the yard.	yes	no
Time flies when we play at the beach.	yes	no
We fed hay to the horses in the barn.	yes	no

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

What does each saying mean? Circle it.

1. I am in hot water.

   I am in trouble.
   She got too nervous to do it.
   Go to bed.

2. Hold your horses.

   Watch it closely.
   Wait, slow down.
   She got too nervous to do it.

3. Get the ball rolling.

   Get started.
   Tell a secret.
   I am listening closely.

4. Time flies.

   It was very easy.
   Leave.
   Time seems to go by fast.

5. He is on cloud nine.

   She got too nervous to do it.
   He is very happy.
   I am listening closely.

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Draw a line from each saying to what it means.

hit the road	•	• sick
under the weather	•	• in trouble
all ears	•	• leave
in hot water	•	• wait
cold feet	•	• go to bed
hit the hay	•	• listening closely
hold your horses	•	• too nervous to do it

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Draw what the saying says. Then write what it really means.

1. Get the ball rolling.

What it says

What it means

2. He is on cloud nine.

What it says

What it means

3. Time flies.

What it says

What it means

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

What does the sentence really mean? Circle it.

Can you lend me a hand with these bags?	Wait. Slow down. Can you help me? I was very happy.
I am so tired that I will hit the hay.	She stays up late. It is raining very hard. I will go to bed.
Those new skates cost an arm and a leg.	Can you help me? I was very happy. They cost a lot of money.
My sister is a night owl.	She stays up late. I am listening closely. It is raining very hard.
Max told a joke to break the ice.	It is raining very hard. He started a friendly talk. Can you help me?
The spelling test was a piece of cake.	It was very easy. I will go to bed. Dad feels sick.

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Name _____ Date _____

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Does the sentence mean just what it says? Circle yes or no.

It is raining, so take your coat.	yes	no
I broke the vase, and now I am in hot water.	yes	no
It's raining cats and dogs, so stay inside.	yes	no
An owl hooted in the tall tree.	yes	no
When I won the prize, I was on cloud nine.	yes	no
The cat sat on the mat by the door.	yes	no
Tell me your story. I am all ears.	yes	no
Dad cut the apple into four pieces.	yes	no

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ANSWER KEY

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Does the sentence mean just what it says? Circle yes or no.

Ana let the cat out of the bag about the party.	yes	(no)
I held the baby bird in my hands.	(yes)	no
Hold your horses! The bus is not here yet.	yes	(no)
The horse ate an apple from my hand.	(yes)	no
Dad is under the weather today.	yes	(no)
We built a snow fort in the yard.	(yes)	no
Time flies when we play at the beach.	yes	(no)
We fed hay to the horses in the barn.	(yes)	no

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Literal and Nonliteral Language

What does each saying mean? Circle it.

1. I am in hot water.
   - **I am in trouble.**
   - She got too nervous to do it.
   - Go to bed.

2. Hold your horses.
   - Watch it closely.
   - **Wait, slow down.**
   - She got too nervous to do it.

3. Get the ball rolling.
   - **Get started.**
   - Tell a secret.
   - I am listening closely.

4. Time flies.
   - It was very easy.
   - Leave.
   - **Time seems to go by fast.**

5. He is on cloud nine.
   - She got too nervous to do it.
   - **He is very happy.**
   - I am listening closely.

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Literal and Nonliteral Language

Draw a line from each saying to what it means.



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Literal and Nonliteral Language

Draw what the saying says. Then write what it really means.

1. Get the ball rolling.

What it says

What it means

Get started.

2. He is on cloud nine.

What it says

What it means

He is very happy.

3. Time flies.

What it says

What it means

Time seems to go by fast.

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Literal and Nonliteral Language

What does the sentence really mean? Circle it.

Can you lend me *a* hand with these bags?	Wait. Slow down. **Can you help me?** I was very happy.
I *am* so tired that I will hit the hay.	She stays up late. It is raining very hard. **I will go to bed.**
Those new skates cost *an* arm *and a* leg.	Can you help me? I was very happy. **They cost *a* lot of money.**
My sister is *a* night owl.	**She stays up late.** I *am* listening closely. It is raining very hard.
Max told *a* joke to break the ice.	It is raining very hard. **He started *a* friendly talk.** Can you help me?
The spelling test was *a* piece of cake.	**It was very easy.** I will go to bed. Dad feels sick.

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Literal and Nonliteral Language

Does the sentence mean just what it says? Circle yes or no.

It is raining, so take your coat.	(yes)	no
I broke the vase, and now I am in hot water.	yes	(no)
It's raining cats and dogs, so stay inside.	yes	(no)
An owl hooted in the tall tree.	(yes)	no
When I won the prize, I was on cloud nine.	yes	(no)
The cat sat on the mat by the door.	(yes)	no
Tell me your story. I am all ears.	yes	(no)
Dad cut the apple into four pieces.	(yes)	no

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