



# **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Third Grade

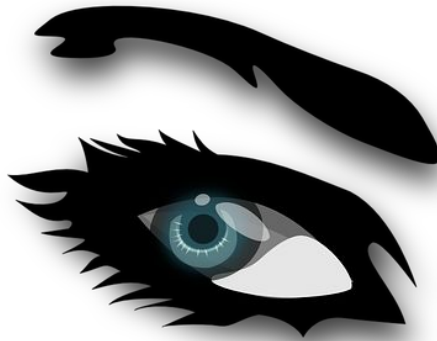


# SIMILES

**Example:** “Eyes as dark as coal.”

**Written in context:** The young boy’s eyes were as dark as coal.

**Explanation:** A simile compares two unlike things using the words “like” or “as”. In this case a person’s eyes are compared to a piece of black coal, indicating the boy’s eyes are really dark.





*The man was as tall as a tree.*



# METAPHORS

**Example:** “Mom is a raging bull.”

**Written in context:** My mother became a raging bull, when she realized I had not cleaned my room!

**Explanation:** A metaphor, like a simile, compares two unlike things, but it does not use the words “like” or “as”. In the example above, the mom is a raging bull which is clearly unlikely and impossible. However, it accurately shows the reader how the mother felt.



# IDIOMS

**Example:** “It’s raining cats and dogs.”

**Written in context:** Even though I have an umbrella, I don’t think it’ll keep me dry as it is raining cats and dogs outside.

**Explanation:** The saying, “It’s raining cats and dogs,” pertains to when it is heavily raining.



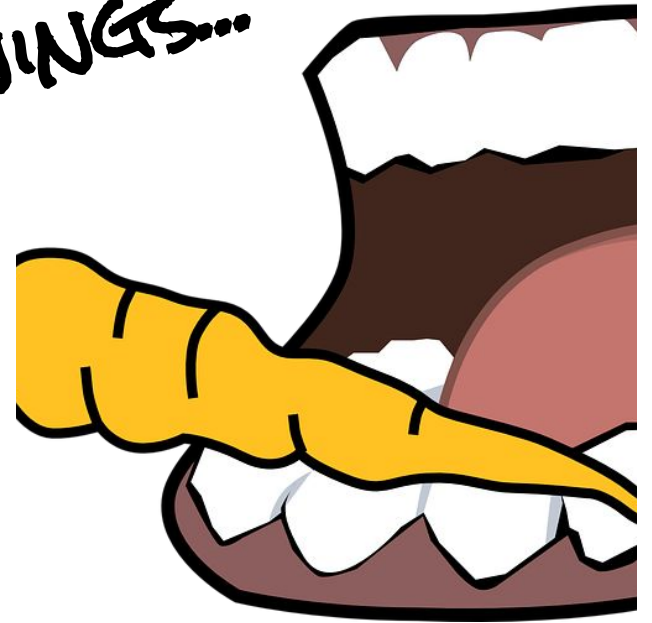
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# IDIOMS

Idioms are phrases which people use in everyday language which do not make sense literally but we understand what they mean.



# PHRASES AND THEIR MEANINGS...



Bite off more than you can chew

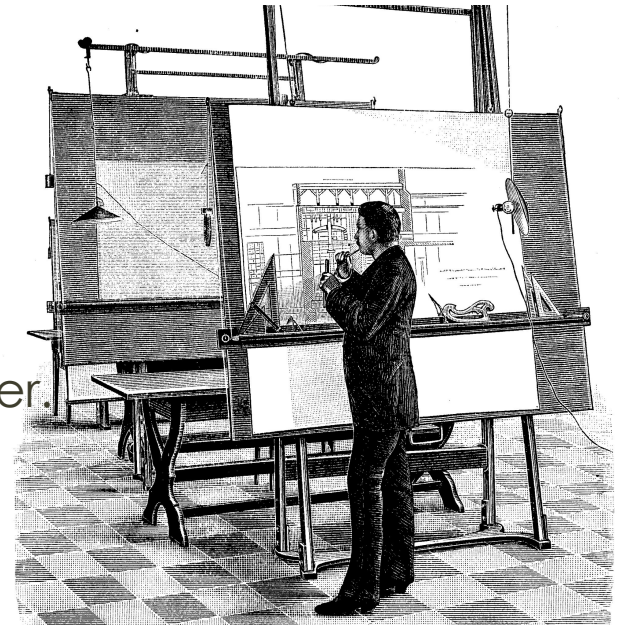
To take on a task that is way too big.

Blessing in disguise

Something good that isn't recognized at first.

Back to the drawing board

When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.



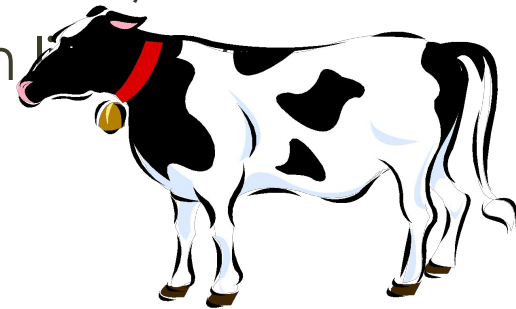


## **HYPERBOLES**

**Example:** “Eating a whole cow.”

**Written in context:** I am so hungry I could eat a whole cow.

**Explanation:** A hyperbole is an exaggeration. No one could really eat a whole cow, no matter how hungry they are. This figurative language is used to show the reader that the person is really hungry. However, it is not meant to be taken







## Personification

**Example:** "Wind whistling."

**Written in context:** The wind whistled through the empty forest.

**Explanation:** A personification gives human qualities to a non-human thing. In the sentence above, the wind, a non-living thing is said to be whistling. However, the wind does not have lips like a person in order to whistle.

# OXYMORON



**Example:** “Pretty ugly”

**Written in context:** Even though everyone thought the black duckling was pretty ugly, he turned out to be a beautiful swan.

**Explanation:** An oxymoron is a contradiction in a sentence. The contradiction in this sentence is pretty and ugly. They mean the complete opposite and therefore it is an oxymoron. Usually, something is either pretty or ugly, but not both.



# PUN

- **Example:** “Wooden Shoe”
- **Written in context:** I would like to go to Holland someday. Wooden shoe?
- **Explanation:** A pun is a play on words. In the example above “Wooden Shoe” is replacing the words “wouldn’t you”. Since wooden shoes are an important icon from Holland it adds humor and ties the whole statement together.

# Alliteration

- **Example:** “Nodded, nearly, napping.”
- **Written in context:** “While I nodded, nearly, napping, suddenly there came a tapping...”  
The Raven By Edgar Allan Poe.
- **Explanation:** Alliteration is the repetition of the first consonant sound in more than two consecutive words. It is used to create a feeling or a mood. Some other authors use it as humor, such as tongue twister. (Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.)

# Onomatopoeia



- **Example:** “SPLAT!”
- **Written in context:** As the boy tripped over the rock, all that was heard was the “SPLAT!” of the ice cream scoop hitting the ground.
- **Explanation:** Onomatopoeia is the imitation of sound to send the reader a clearer picture of what happened. It helps writing by adding one of the five senses, hearing. (Other examples: Hiss, crack, tick-tock, buzz, slam, etc...)

# Sayings



- **Example:** “A bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush.”
- **Written in context:** Even though I wanted to win more money, I decided to stop wasting the money I did have because I realized that a bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush.
- **Explanation:** Sayings usually are old and are passed down from generation to generation. The above saying means that having something secure is better than what you could have, because you could end up with nothing. It is pretty much promoting to play it safe as opposed to risking it.