# Words Beyond Words

Decide when words mean exactly what they say.

**ELA.5.V.1.3** "Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### LITERAL MEANING

Literal words mean exactly what they say. They describe something that can really happen as stated.

A turtle crossed the road.

### FIGURATIVE MEANING

Figurative words create a picture or compare ideas. They do not mean exactly what they say.

Her smile was sunshine.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle LITERAL or FIGURATIVE for each sentence, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which words helped you decide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The baby slept like a log. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **2.** | After the test, Marcus had a mountain of homework. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **3.** | The log floated down the river. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **4.** | The old car coughed as it started. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **5.** | We climbed the mountain before lunch. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **6.** | A frog jumped from the lily pad. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **7.** | The wind whispered through the trees. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |
| **8.** | The librarian placed the book on a shelf. | LITERAL FIGURATIVE |

## 2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

**ITEM #** _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

## 3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new literal sentence and one new figurative sentence.

**LITERAL** _____

**FIGURATIVE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write a two-sentence mini-scene that uses a figurative phrase and includes a context clue that helps a reader understand the phrase.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Words Beyond Words

**GRADE 5 · ELA.5.V.1.3**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The baby slept like a log. | **FIGURATIVE** | The baby did not become a log. The comparison means the baby slept very deeply. |
| 2 | After the test, Marcus had a mountain of homework. | **FIGURATIVE** | Marcus did not have a real mountain. The phrase means he had a very large amount of homework. |
| 3 | The log floated down the river. | **LITERAL** | A real log can float down a river. |
| 4 | The old car coughed as it started. | **FIGURATIVE** | Cars cannot cough. The phrase describes the sputtering sound of the engine. |
| 5 | We climbed the mountain before lunch. | **LITERAL** | People can really climb a mountain. |
| 6 | A frog jumped from the lily pad. | **LITERAL** | A frog can really jump from a lily pad. |
| 7 | The wind whispered through the trees. | **FIGURATIVE** | Wind cannot whisper. The phrase describes a soft sound in the trees. |
| 8 | The librarian placed the book on a shelf. | **LITERAL** | A librarian can really place a book on a shelf. |

## PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

## PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **LITERAL**: The kitten curled up in the basket.
- **FIGURATIVE**: The thunder was a drumbeat above our house.

**Challenge:** When the final bell rang, Darnell's feet were rockets as he raced to the bus. He ran very fast because rain was beginning to fall.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that name words showing an exact meaning or a comparison that cannot happen literally.