

Say It Straight

Sort sentences by what they really mean.

2.T.SS.2.a "Identify the difference between literal and nonliteral or figurative language in texts. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

LITERAL

Literal words mean exactly what they say. You can picture them happening for real.

Raindrops tapped windows.

FIGURATIVE

Figurative words create a picture or compare things in a special way. They do not mean exactly what they say.

Dad's voice was thunder.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle LITERAL or FIGURATIVE for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and tell how you knew.

1. Mia read a book.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

2. The wind blew hard.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

3. My stomach is a drum.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

4. Jake's idea was a light bulb.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

5. Birds built a nest.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

6. The test was a piece of cake.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

7. Sam wore blue boots.

LITERAL

FIGURATIVE

8. Our bus was a turtle.

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 FIGURATIVE sentence, then write a second sentence that tells what it really means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mia read a book.	LITERAL	This can happen exactly as the sentence says.
2	The wind blew hard.	LITERAL	This states a real event directly.
3	My stomach is a drum.	FIGURATIVE	A stomach is not really a drum, it means the stomach may be making loud sounds.
4	Jake's idea was a light bulb.	FIGURATIVE	An idea is not really a light bulb, it means he had a bright new idea.
5	Birds built a nest.	LITERAL	This can happen exactly as the sentence says.
6	The test was a piece of cake.	FIGURATIVE	A test is not food, this means the test was easy.
7	Sam wore blue boots.	LITERAL	This states a real action directly.
8	Our bus was a turtle.	FIGURATIVE	A bus is not really a turtle, this means the bus moved slowly.

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:** Leaves covered the path.
- **FIGURATIVE:** Her laugh was music.

Challenge: My little brother is a tornado. He moves around quickly and makes a big mess.

Sort answers: 1 LITERAL, 2 LITERAL, 3 FIGURATIVE, 4 FIGURATIVE, 5 LITERAL, 6 FIGURATIVE, 7 LITERAL, 8 FIGURATIVE. For Part 2, accept explanations that tell whether the words can happen exactly as stated or create a special picture.