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.

ANSWER KEY

Say It Straight

GRADE 2 · 2.T.SS.2.a

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.