Words in Disguise

Sort what words say from what they suggest.

L.3.5 "Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings. Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LITERAL

The words mean exactly what they say. The sentence describes something that could really happen.

A lemon tastes sour.

NONLITERAL

The words do not mean exactly what they say. They help you picture an idea or understand a feeling.

Dad is a busy bee.

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, SORT, circle LITERAL or NONLITERAL for each sentence; in Part 2, PROVE IT, choose two item numbers and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Mina carried three books to the library.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
2.	My stomach was a knot before the play.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
3.	Our class was a zoo during indoor recess.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
4.	The rabbit hopped across the grass.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
5.	A spoon fell from the table.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
6.	I was on cloud nine when my team won.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
7.	Theo wore a blue coat in the rain.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
8.	We ate warm soup for lunch.	LITERAL NONLITERAL

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

In Part 3, MAKE YOUR OWN, write one new literal sentence and one new nonliteral sentence.

LITERAL _____

NONLITERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences using the same phrase, one where it is literal and one where it is nonliteral. Label each sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Words in Disguise

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mina carried three books to the library.	**LITERAL**	Mina could carry books to a library.
2	My stomach was a knot before the play.	**NONLITERAL**	The stomach is not really a knot; the phrase describes feeling nervous.
3	Our class was a zoo during indoor recess.	**NONLITERAL**	The classroom was not a real zoo; the phrase suggests it was noisy or wild.
4	The rabbit hopped across the grass.	**LITERAL**	A rabbit can hop across grass.
5	A spoon fell from the table.	**LITERAL**	A spoon can fall from a table.
6	I was on cloud nine when my team won.	**NONLITERAL**	The speaker was not on a cloud; the phrase means very happy.
7	Theo wore a blue coat in the rain.	**LITERAL**	Theo could wear a coat in the rain.
8	We ate warm soup for lunch.	**LITERAL**	People can eat warm soup for lunch.

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 turtle swam across the pond.
- **NONLITERAL**: My sister is a shining star when she sings.

Challenge: LITERAL: I dropped the ball, and it rolled under the couch. NONLITERAL: I dropped the ball when I forgot to bring our poster.

For Part 2, explanations should connect each choice to what the words mean in context. For example, item 2 is nonliteral because a stomach cannot become a knot, and item 4 is literal because a rabbit can hop across grass.