

Garden Sayings

Use context to explain familiar figurative sayings.

4L5.b "Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each figurative saying. Number them 1 through 4 and write a short meaning beside each one.

Maya's Garden Bed

- ① On Saturday, Maya arrived at the community garden before the sun was high. Her uncle handed her a packet of seeds and said, "The early bird catches the worm." Several garden beds were still open, including one near the water barrel. Maya chose it and began pulling weeds. Later, other volunteers had to share the few beds that remained.
- ② By noon, rain poured down so hard that puddles splashed over Maya's boots. Her uncle looked at the sky and said, "It's raining cats and dogs." Maya laughed because no animals were falling. When the shower ended, the soil was soft and dark. She planted the seeds carefully while her uncle covered the packet to keep it dry.
- ③ A week later, Maya checked the bed each morning. She wanted to enter her plants in the fall fair, but her uncle said, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." Maya kept watering instead of making plans for a prize. As the days passed, she stared at the bare soil. "A watched pot never boils," her uncle said. On Friday, small green sprouts appeared.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does "The early bird catches the worm" mean in this passage?

2 What does "It's raining cats and dogs" mean? Which details in the passage help you know?

3 What does "Don't count your chickens before they hatch" advise Maya to do?

4 Why does Maya's uncle say, "A watched pot never boils"? Explain what the saying means here.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a common idiom, adage, or proverb that is not in the passage. Name it, explain its figurative meaning, and write two sentences that show it being used in a situation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each figurative saying. Number them 1 through 4 and write a short meaning beside each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does “The early bird catches the worm” mean in this passage?	People who begin early may have a better chance to get what they want.
2	What does “It’s raining cats and dogs” mean? Which details in the passage help you know?	It means it is raining very heavily. The rain made puddles splash over Maya’s boots, and no animals were actually falling.
3	What does “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch” advise Maya to do?	It advises Maya not to expect a prize or assume her plants will be ready before the plants grow.
4	Why does Maya’s uncle say, “A watched pot never boils”? Explain what the saying means here.	Maya is staring at the bare soil and waiting for sprouts. The saying means that waiting closely can make time seem slower.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

“Spill the beans” means to tell a secret. Leo spilled the beans about the surprise party. His sister wished he had kept the plan secret.

Accept equivalent explanations supported by the passage context. For Your Turn, accept any accurate common idiom, adage, or proverb not used in the passage, with a correct meaning and two situation sentences.