

# Words With Twists

Read closely to interpret puns and verbal irony in context.

**8L5.a** "Interpret figures of speech including irony and puns in context."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** In paragraph 3, underline Nia's and Malik's full quotations. In paragraphs 1 and 2, circle Lila's and Diego's full quotations, then use the situation around each quote to interpret it.

### Rain at the Invention Fair

- ① At Brookside Middle School's outdoor invention fair, teams set up before noon. Lila built a solar oven from foil, cardboard, and a pizza box. Dark clouds gathered while she aimed its shiny flap toward the sky. The first drops fell just as judges arrived. Lila looked at the soaked box and said, "Perfect weather for a solar oven." Her partner covered the project with a plastic bin. Nearby, the wind snapped several signs loose from their clips.
- ② Across the lawn, Diego demonstrated a robot designed to sort recycled bottles. He had tested it for weeks, and its label read, "Most Reliable Machine." When a judge placed one bottle on its belt, the robot beeped, spun once, and froze. Diego checked the battery, then checked the wiring. As three more bottles waited in a neat line, he said, "At least it picked a dependable moment to stop working." The judge laughed and wrote notes on her clipboard.
- ③ Inside the gym, the snack team served warm hotcakes after the rain moved the fair indoors. Customers formed a line at the table, and the stack disappeared quickly. Holding up the last plate, Nia called, "These hotcakes are selling like hotcakes." At the next table, a poster board split down the middle. Malik pressed a strip of tape across the tear and said, "This fair is really sticking together." Soon, judges returned to finish their visits.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** What does Lila mean when she says, "Perfect weather for a solar oven"? Explain why her statement is ironic.

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**2** What does Diego mean by "a dependable moment to stop working"? Why is this statement ironic?

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**3** Explain the two meanings in Nia's statement, "These hotcakes are selling like hotcakes."

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**4** Explain the literal and figurative meanings of Malik's statement, "This fair is really sticking together."

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene at a school event. Include one clear verbal irony statement and one pun, and make the surrounding details show why each statement has its meaning.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

In paragraph 3, underline Nia's and Malik's full quotations. In paragraphs 1 and 2, circle Lila's and Diego's full quotations, then use the situation around each quote to interpret it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                    | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does Lila mean when she says, "Perfect weather for a solar oven"? Explain why her statement is ironic. | <b>She means the weather is terrible for a solar oven because rain and dark clouds block sunlight. It is ironic because she says the opposite of what she means.</b>                         |
| 2 | What does Diego mean by "a dependable moment to stop working"? Why is this statement ironic?                | <b>He means the robot stopped working at a very bad time, during its demonstration for a judge. It is ironic because dependable means reliable, but the robot failed when it was needed.</b> |
| 3 | Explain the two meanings in Nia's statement, "These hotcakes are selling like hotcakes."                    | <b>Literally, the hotcakes are being bought quickly. The phrase "selling like hotcakes" also means that something is selling very fast.</b>                                                  |
| 4 | Explain the literal and figurative meanings of Malik's statement, "This fair is really sticking together."  | <b>Literally, tape is holding the torn poster board together. Figuratively, the fair is continuing successfully because people are working through the problems.</b>                         |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

At a book drive, Hana tied bundles of donated books with twine while rain soaked the collection boxes. She said, "We are bound together," pointing to the tied books and the friends working as a team. When the fire alarm sent everyone outside, she added, "This is exactly the calm, silent event I planned."

Accept equivalent explanations that use context to show that the first two quotations mean the opposite of their literal wording. For the open response, accept varied school-event scenes if the pun has two supported meanings and the irony clearly contrasts with the situation.