Words That Wander

Use context to sort literal and figurative meanings.

5.LF.11 "Acquire and use grade-level vocabulary, clarifying the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases in text, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LITERAL

The words mean exactly what they say. The event could happen as written.

The horses raced around the track.

FIGURATIVE

The words mean something different from their exact wording. Use nearby words to figure out the meaning.

My thoughts raced during the test.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle LITERAL or FIGURATIVE for each numbered sentence, then choose two items and explain which words helped you decide.

1.	The hiker had cold feet after stepping into the stream.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
2.	Sam ate a piece of cake after lunch.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
3.	Leo got cold feet before singing on stage.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
4.	That science quiz was a piece of cake for Nia.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
5.	I broke the ice with a joke at the start of the meeting.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
6.	Ravi broke the ice on the pond with a stick.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
7.	The cat climbed out of the bag when we opened it.	LITERAL FIGURATIVE
8.	Tara let the cat out of the bag by revealing the surprise party.	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 sentence that is literal and one new sentence that is figurative.

LITERAL _____

FIGURATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write another figurative sentence, then explain its meaning and name a clue in your sentence.

ANSWER KEY # Words That Wander

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.11

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hiker had cold feet after stepping into the stream.	**LITERAL**	The stream made the hiker's feet physically cold.
2	Sam ate a piece of cake after lunch.	**LITERAL**	Sam ate an actual slice of cake.
3	Leo got cold feet before singing on stage.	**FIGURATIVE**	Cold feet means Leo became nervous about performing.
4	That science quiz was a piece of cake for Nia.	**FIGURATIVE**	A piece of cake means the quiz was easy.
5	I broke the ice with a joke at the start of the meeting.	**FIGURATIVE**	The joke helped people feel comfortable and start talking.
6	Ravi broke the ice on the pond with a stick.	**LITERAL**	Ravi physically broke ice on a pond.
7	The cat climbed out of the bag when we opened it.	**LITERAL**	An actual cat came out of an actual bag.
8	Tara let the cat out of the bag by revealing the surprise party.	**FIGURATIVE**	Tara revealed a secret; no cat or bag is involved.

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 puppy dug a hole beside the fence.
- **FIGURATIVE**: When the bell rang, our hallway became a river of students.

Challenge: I got cold feet before the spelling bee, so I almost refused to go onstage. Cold feet means I felt nervous; almost refused is the clue.

Accept explanations that use context to show whether the words describe an actual event or express a different meaning. For Part 3, accept original sentences that clearly fit each category.