Words Two Ways

Sort, explain how you knew for two picks, and make your own.

3.L.5 "Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and subtle differences in word meanings. Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LITERAL

The words mean exactly what they say.

The robin **built a nest** by the window.

NONLITERAL

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

My backpack **weighs a ton**.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle LITERAL or NONLITERAL to show what the bold words mean.

1. I ate **a piece of cake** after lunch. LITERAL NONLITERAL
2. The puppy **dug a hole** in the yard. LITERAL NONLITERAL
3. That puzzle was **a piece of cake** for Nia. LITERAL NONLITERAL
4. Rain **poured** from the dark clouds. LITERAL NONLITERAL
5. Before the show, I had **butterflies in my stomach**. LITERAL NONLITERAL
6. When he heard the good news, Leo was **on cloud nine**. LITERAL NONLITERAL
7. A yellow **butterfly sat on the flower**. LITERAL NONLITERAL
8. After practice, my legs **felt like jelly**. 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

Write one new literal sentence and one new nonliteral sentence. Underline the words that show each meaning.

LITERAL _____

NONLITERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences using the phrase "a piece of cake." Make it literal in one sentence and nonliteral in the other.

ANSWER KEY # Words Two Ways

GRADE 3 · 3.L.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I ate **a piece of cake** after lunch.	**LITERAL**	The cake is food the speaker ate.
2	The puppy **dug a hole** in the yard.	**LITERAL**	The puppy made an actual hole.
3	That puzzle was **a piece of cake** for Nia.	**NONLITERAL**	The phrase means the puzzle was easy.
4	Rain **poured** from the dark clouds.	**LITERAL**	Rain fell heavily from the clouds.
5	Before the show, I had **butterflies in my stomach**.	**NONLITERAL**	The phrase describes feeling nervous.
6	When he heard the good news, Leo was **on cloud nine**.	**NONLITERAL**	The phrase means Leo felt very happy.
7	A yellow **butterfly sat on the flower**.	**LITERAL**	An actual butterfly rested on a flower.
8	After practice, my legs **felt like jelly**.	**NONLITERAL**	The comparison means the speaker's legs felt weak or wobbly.

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 crawled across the sand.
- **NONLITERAL**: My brother is a walking dictionary.

Challenge: I put a piece of cake on my plate. The math quiz was a piece of cake.

For Prove It, accept any two numbered items with explanations that connect the bold words to their meanings in context. For example, item 1 names food, while item 3 means the puzzle was easy.