# Words on a Roll

A bread sale with more than one meaning

**8.L.5.a** "Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two comments that mean the opposite of what their speakers say, and circle two phrases that use bread words with a second meaning.

### The Rainy Bread Sale

1 On Saturday, Maya and her friends set up a bread sale outside the community center. They placed a handwritten sign beside trays of warm rolls and loaves. Before the first customer arrived, rain began to fall, and a corner of the sign sagged. Maya lifted the soggy cardboard and said, "Lovely weather for a paper sign." Her friends hurried the trays beneath the center's wide roof. The sign could not be saved, so Maya wrote the prices on a dry scrap of cardboard.

2 Then one leg of their folding table sat unevenly on the sloped pavement. The rolls slid toward the edge, but Jamal caught the tray before anything fell. Looking at the tilted table, he announced, "What a sturdy table." Maya laughed and held one end while Jamal found a stack of flat wooden blocks in the supply closet. With a block under the short leg, the table stood level again. They moved it farther from the rain and waited as people gathered near the center's doors.

3 A neighbor bought two loaves, then returned with three friends. Soon the group had sold almost everything and collected enough money to buy new books for the center. Jamal counted the cash while Maya wrapped the last loaf. "We made a lot of dough," he said. A streak of flour still marked his sleeve from mixing the bread that morning. When another customer asked for rolls, Maya grinned. "Our sales are on a roll," she said. She handed over the final bag as the rain stopped.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does Maya really mean when she says, “Lovely weather for a paper sign”? Which detail shows this?

2. Why does Jamal's comment about the table mean the opposite of its words?

3. What two meanings of “dough” make Jamal's comment a pun?

4. How does “roll” connect Maya's comment to both the bread and their sales?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three- to four-sentence scene outside a library that includes one clear example of verbal irony and one pun. Use details in the scene to show what each line really means.

**ANSWER KEY** # Words on a Roll

**GRADE 8 · 8.L.5.a**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two comments that mean the opposite of what their speakers say, and circle two phrases that use bread words with a second meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What does Maya really mean when she says, “Lovely weather for a paper sign”? Which detail shows this? | **She means the weather is terrible for a paper sign. Rain has made the sign soggy.** |
| 2 | Why does Jamal's comment about the table mean the opposite of its words? | **He calls the table sturdy even though it is tilted and the rolls are sliding toward its edge.** |
| 3 | What two meanings of “dough” make Jamal's comment a pun? | **Dough is the bread mixture they made, and it is also a word for money, which they earned at the sale.** |
| 4 | How does “roll” connect Maya's comment to both the bread and their sales? | **They are selling bread rolls, and being “on a roll” means having continuing success.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Outside the library, rain soaked the poster announcing an outdoor book swap. “Perfect weather for a paper poster,” I told my sister as the ink ran down the page. She held up the novel she had brought and said, “I have a novel idea: let's move the swap under the awning.” We carried the books to the dry steps while the poster dripped into a puddle.

For the marking job, accept underlining of Maya's weather comment and Jamal's table comment, and circling of “dough” and “on a roll.” For Part 3, accept any clear verbal irony and pun supported by details in a scene outside a library.