Meaning Match

Sort each line by whether the words match the speaker's intended meaning.

9.RL.2.C "Explain the point of view and distinguish between what is implied or intended because of the use of hyperbole, irony, sarcasm, and understatement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LITERAL

Literal words say exactly what the speaker means. You do not need to look for a hidden or opposite meaning.

A blue bicycle leaned against the fence.

NONLITERAL

Nonliteral words do not fully match the speaker's intended meaning. Look for clues that show the speaker is exaggerating, being sarcastic, or saying less than they mean.

When the bus splashed her, Nia said, "What a lovely surprise."

1 SORT

8 items

For each line, circle LITERAL or NONLITERAL, then choose two items and explain which words or situation helped you decide.

1.	After the delay, Maya said, "Perfect. I wanted to miss the opening scene."	LITERAL NONLITERAL
2.	The theater doors opened at 7:30 p.m.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
3.	Omar placed his wet umbrella beside the mat.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
4.	"I have told you a million times to shut the gate," Luis said.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
5.	After hiking twelve miles, Priya said, "My feet are a little tired."	LITERAL NONLITERAL
6.	The lantern flickered twice before going out.	LITERAL NONLITERAL
7.	When the team lost 9–0, Eli said, "We were unstoppable today."	LITERAL NONLITERAL
8.	The stack of homework was tall enough to touch the clouds.	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 example and one new NONLITERAL example. Make the intended meaning clear in each one.

LITERAL _____

NONLITERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence scene: use one NONLITERAL line, then explain what the speaker really means and what attitude it reveals.

ANSWER KEY

Meaning Match

GRADE 9 · 9.RL.2.C

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After the delay, Maya said, "Perfect. I wanted to miss the opening scene."	**NONLITERAL**	Maya means the delay was not perfect. Her words are sarcastic.
2	The theater doors opened at 7:30 p.m.	**LITERAL**	The sentence states a direct fact.
3	Omar placed his wet umbrella beside the mat.	**LITERAL**	The words directly describe Omar's action.
4	"I have told you a million times to shut the gate," Luis said.	**NONLITERAL**	Luis is exaggerating to show annoyance.
5	After hiking twelve miles, Priya said, "My feet are a little tired."	**NONLITERAL**	Priya understates her likely exhaustion after a long hike.
6	The lantern flickered twice before going out.	**LITERAL**	The sentence directly describes what happened.
7	When the team lost 9–0, Eli said, "We were unstoppable today."	**NONLITERAL**	Eli means the opposite. The situation makes his comment sarcastic.
8	The stack of homework was tall enough to touch the clouds.	**NONLITERAL**	The sentence uses hyperbole to exaggerate the stack's height.

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 baker removed six loaves from the oven.
- **NONLITERAL**: My backpack weighs as much as a mountain.

Challenge: When the referee made a bad call, Jada said, "That was a brilliant decision." Jada really means the decision was poor, and her sarcastic words show frustration.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the contrast between the words and the intended meaning or point to exaggeration. For Part 3, accept varied responses when each category is clear and the nonliteral example has an inferable intended meaning.