

Idiom & hyperbole

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Figurative language is when we use creative words or phrases to help readers imagine something. Figurative language does not mean exactly what the words say.

An **idiom** is a phrase that has a meaning different from the literal meaning of the words. A **hyperbole** is an extreme exaggeration used to show strong feelings or make a point.

A. Read each sentence. Then choose whether it is an idiom, a hyperbole or neither.

1. I'm so tired I could sleep for a thousand years.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
2. She spilled the beans about the surprise.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
3. The baby slept in the crib.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
4. I've told you a million times to clean your room.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither

B. Read each sentence. What type of figurative language is it, and what does it mean?

1. He has butterflies in his stomach before the test.

This sentence is _____ (an idiom or a hyperbole)

It means that:

- a. He ate butterflies.
- b. He feels nervous.
- c. He has a stomach bug.
- d. He is hungry.

2. This backpack weighs a ton!

This sentence is _____ (an idiom or a hyperbole)

It means that:

- a. The backpack is very heavy.
- b. The backpack is broken.
- c. The backpack is full of rocks.
- d. The backpack is small.



3. She was on top of the world after winning the game.

This sentence is _____ (an idiom or a hyperbole)

It means that:

- a. She climbed a mountain.
 - b. She felt very happy.
 - c. She was very tall.
 - d. She was outside.
4. I waited forever for the bus to arrive.

This sentence is _____ (an idiom or a hyperbole)

It means that:

- a. The bus never came.
- b. The wait for the bus felt very long.
- c. The bus was early.
- d. The bus was broken.



C. Read each sentence. What does the figurative language help you understand? Explain in your own words.

1. My little brother talks a mile a minute.

2. He hit the books after dinner.

Answers

A. Read each sentence. Then choose whether it is an idiom, a hyperbole or neither.

1. I'm so tired I could sleep for a thousand years.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
2. She spilled the beans about the surprise.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
3. The baby slept in the crib.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither
4. I've told you a million times to clean your room.	Idiom	Hyperbole	Neither

B. Read each sentence. What type of figurative language is it, and what does it mean?

1. **an idiom**
b. He feels nervous.
2. **a hyperbole**
a. The backpack is very heavy.
3. **an idiom**
b. She felt very happy.
4. **a hyperbole**
b. The wait for the bus felt very long.

C. Read each sentence. What does the figurative language help you understand? Explain in your own words.

Accept any answers along these lines:

1. My little brother talks a mile a minute.
My little brother talks very quickly or talks a lot without stopping.
2. He hit the books after dinner.
He started studying or doing schoolwork after dinner.