

Idioms and Sayings

- Explain to students that idioms are common “sayings” that have two meanings. The first meaning is literal (what the words mean), and the second meaning is figurative (what the saying means in our culture).
- Say: “It’s a piece of cake!” Ask students if they have heard this before. Have them think, pair, share about what the literal meaning is and what the figurative meaning is.
- Explain that idioms can be hard to understand if you haven’t heard them before. Discuss how the context (what the rest of the text says) can give clues about what an idiom means. Idioms often have emphasis, which can also give clues about their meaning.
- Find idioms in the text, and have students read the idioms and think, pair, share about what they mean. Discuss the idioms as a group.
- Discuss why authors use idioms instead of always speaking literally.

Notes: