



Illustrate Idioms

LANGUAGE and LAUGHTER



RESPOND to common idioms by thinking about them literally and figuratively. Idioms are phrases whose meaning cannot be figured out by simply defining each word. Often there is an interesting history behind an idiom that is fun to discover. Ask yourself, "how might an idiom like *when pigs fly* or *everything but the kitchen sink* get started?"



Shulin S.

Opportunity Knocks but Once dates from the late 1800s and a similar idiom was used in medieval France. It means take advantage of an opportunity when it presents itself or you might regret it forever.

CREATE several illustrated idioms. Often idioms evoke an image that is an imaginary situation with an insightful figurative meaning and a silly literal meaning. For example, you can visualize the idiom *a piece of cake* or *getting your ducks in a row*. Work with several classmates to discuss what each person thinks the figurative meaning of each idiom is and brainstorm others that you are familiar with or have recently discovered.

For example:

Between a rock and a hard place

Hold your horses

Out of the blue

Out of this world

Up in the air

Feeling under the weather

Let the cat out of the bag

Think out of the box

Add more here:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WRITE A FEW IDIOMS AND CREATE A SIMPLE SKETCH FOR EACH THAT REPRESENTS EITHER THE LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE MEANING.



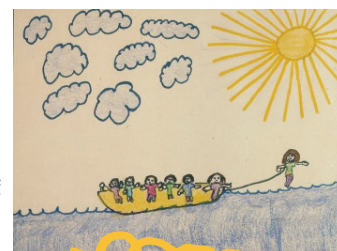
Joey B.

Everything but the kitchen sink



Merielle L.

Raining Cats and Dogs was first published in a book in England in 1652, but cats and dogs have been associated with bad weather since ancient times. Streets were filthy and heavy rain often would carry along dead animals. Now this idiom means a heavy downpour.



Lauren M.

Snug as a Bug in a Rug first appeared in a 1769 play. It refers to a moth cocoon happily embedded in a rug. The idiom means feeling cozy or comfortable.



Area 51 Interns Book #1: Alien Summer
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Turning Today's Interests
into Tomorrow's Careers
Thinking Sheet

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PRESENT your idiom illustrations. Cover the written idioms by taping paper flaps over the words. Show your sketches to classmates. Ask them to figure out each idiom based on the drawing. Encourage them to debate their ideas and consider other possibilities. Then lift the flaps to show the idioms as you say them and discuss how the art represents what the phrase means.



CONNECT idioms to other figurative language tools used by imaginative writers. As you read *Area 51 Interns - Alien Summer* look for clever combinations of words that pique readers' interests, *tickle their funny bones*, or help them see ideas in new ways.

Write and illustrate a simple three-part comic strip story. In one panel include an idiom. Build upon that expression by writing and sketching a metaphor in the second panel. In the third panel, write and sketch a simile that is connected to the same main idea. For example, if your idiom is *An elephant never forgets*, your metaphor could be *The elephant in the room*, and your simile could be *As strong as an elephant*. Compare the three panels you created and decide which you think is most effective in communicating an idea you could further develop into a short story. In other words, which use of figurative language provides *the most bang for the buck*?

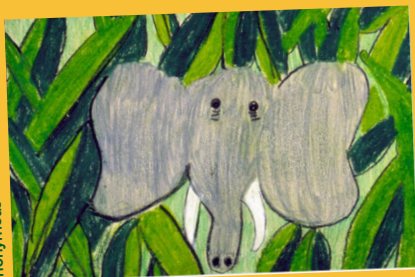


Stephani R.

Beat the clock



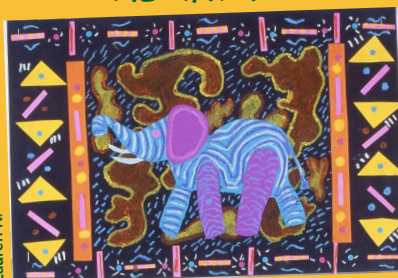
IDIOM



Anonymous

An elephant never forgets

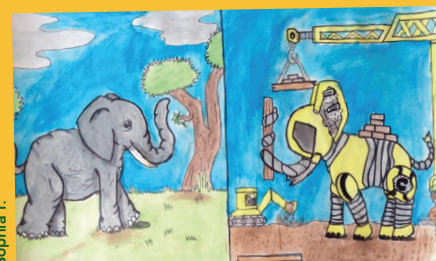
METAPHOR



Lauren N.

The elephant in the room

SIMILE



Sophia T.

As strong as an elephant

USE ANOTHER IDIOM AND CREATE ART THAT ILLUSTRATES YOUR IDIOM, A RELATED METAPHOR, AND SIMILE.

Note for teachers and parents:

For more creative inspiration and hands-on explorations go to [Crayola.com/CreativityWeek](https://www.crayola.com/CreativityWeek)
To share student artwork on social media please post using [#CrayolaCreativityWeek](https://twitter.com/CrayolaCreativityWeek)
We can't wait to see what they create.



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