Name:_____   Date:_____

Explaining Idioms

Idiom—a phrase that has meaning that cannot be determined from the words that make it up; the combination of words has a meaning all its own

Examples: missed the boat; see eye to eye

Exercise:
An idiom is underlined in each of these sentences. Explain the meaning of the idiom on the line provided.

1. It is raining cats and dogs today!

_____

2. The party is a secret, so don't let the cat out of the bag.

_____

3. I will let you have a pet snake when pigs fly.

_____

4. I signed up for the class play, the basketball team, and I am taking honors math. I think I have bitten off more than I can chew.

_____

5. You will be great in the talent show, Kara. Now, break a leg!

_____

6. The project that Mrs. Smith assigned us is a piece of cake.

_____

7. I have two tests tomorrow, so tonight, I really need to hit the books.

_____

ANSWERS--Explaining Idioms

Idiom—a phrase that has meaning that cannot be determined from the words that make it up; the combination of words has a meaning all its own

    Examples: missed the boat; see eye to eye

Exercise:
An idiom is underlined in each of these sentences. Explain the meaning of the idiom on the line provided.

1. It is raining cats and dogs today!
It is raining very hard—large drops of rain.

2. The party is a secret, so don't let the cat out of the bag.
Don't tell anyone the secret—don't give the surprise away.

3. I will let you have a pet snake when pigs fly.
Pigs cannot fly, so this means that there will never be a pet snake.

4. I signed up for the class play, the basketball team, and I am taking honors math. I think I have bitten off more than I can chew.
The person has taken on too many responsibilities.

5. You will be great in the talent show, Kara. Now, break a leg!
It means "good luck" or "do a good job."

6. The project that Mrs. Smith assigned us is a piece of cake.
It is very easy.

7. I have two tests tomorrow, so tonight, I really need to hit the books.
It means to study hard.