

Idioms Literature and Writing Activities

The following books use idioms and can reinforce that when using an idiom the specific combination of words carries on a different meaning (figurative, not literal) from what the individual words typically mean. Simply reading and enjoying these books will lay a foundation for understanding idioms.

** Invite children/students to pay attention! It is amazing how many idioms are used in our speech on a typical day. When learning about idioms and other forms of figurative language, pay attention to the speech you use at home, when shopping, in the classroom, etc. You will make idioms more concrete when bridging the learning into real life settings, making a permanent connection to a more abstract concept.

** As a writing extension, I like to allow children/students to make their own idiom books. It is fun for them to draw pictures of the literal meanings of idioms, and to explain its real meaning underneath. For example, a student could draw a picture of a cupcake flying through outer space for the idiom "This cupcake is out of this world." Below in writing, the student could note, "The cupcake is out of this world really means it tastes delicious!" Use this as an easy center activity, allowing each student to illustrate and write about one idiom. Once all students have attended the center, you can make a class book.

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parrish

There's a Frog in My Throat by Loreen Leedy and Pat Street

Why the Banana Split by Rick Walton

Butterflies in My Stomach, You are What You Eat, and Reach for the Stars
by Serge Bloch

In a Pickle and Mad as a Wet Hen by Marvin Terban