

Lesson 1: Explaining the Plot and Predicting Using Idioms**Learning Outcome**

Use idioms to explain a plot and predict what will happen next in a story

Duration

Approximately 50 minutes

Necessary Materials

Provided: Direct Teaching Example Chart, "The Great Escape" Passage, Independent Practice

Not Provided: *In a Pickle and Other Funny Idioms* by Marvin Terba

Lesson Plan

- **DIRECT TEACHING**

I will explain the meaning of idioms (phrases that have a different meaning from the actual words used). I will read page 1 from the book *In a Pickle and Other Funny Idioms* by Marvin Terban aloud. I will explain that the book tells us what idioms mean and where they came from. I will give students the "Idioms and their Meanings" page (see Direct Teaching Example Chart, provided below in Teacher and Student Materials) and read aloud all the idioms and their meanings. I will read about where these idioms came from *In a Pickle and Other Funny Idioms* p. 5, 7, 19, 23, 25, 27, 31, 53, 55, 63). I will then read the short story "The Great Escape" (provided in Books and Passages) aloud. I will model using idioms to describe the plot of the story. For example, I can retell the plot of the story by saying Sarah is in a pickle. Sarah hears it straight from the horse's mouth, her Uncle Bill, to be careful and make sure she closes the guinea pig pen. It must have gone in one ear and out the other. While Sarah is feeding the guinea pigs, the fish bowl falls over and she runs to clean it up. She soon realizes that the guinea pigs have escaped because she forgot to close the pen. I guess there's no use in crying over spilled milk. I will predict what may happen next in the story. I predict that Sarah will find all the guinea pigs before her uncle returns.

TIP: Chart and discuss the idiom examples during Direct Teaching. This will provide students with visual support that they can refer back to during the Guided Practice and Independent Practice.

- **THINK CHECK**

Ask: How did I use idioms to explain a story? Students should respond that you first learned the meaning of various idioms. Then you read a story. Then you retold the story using idioms by thinking about their meaning and how they can describe the story.

- **GUIDED PRACTICE**

WE will use the idioms from the "Idioms and their Meanings" page to make our prediction of what will happen next in the story. For example, Sarah may have butterflies in her stomach as she thinks of a way to tell her Uncle Bill that the guinea pigs have escaped. Maybe right before her uncle gets back to the shop, she finds all the guinea pigs and puts them back in the pen. Then she will feel like she is sitting on top of the world.

- **INDEPENDENT PRACTICE**

YOU will read the passage "Casey Saves the Play" (Student Independent Practice is provided below). You will describe the plot and predict what will happen next using at least three idioms.

TIP: This lesson focuses on ten specific idioms. Encourage students to think about and discuss other idioms they have read or heard. Have students use these idioms to complete the Independent Practice. Add these idioms to a class list and keep the list posted in the classroom.

Build Student Vocabulary reliable

Tier 2 Word: **reliable**

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Contextualize the word as it is used in the story	“Straight from the horse’s mouth” means “information gotten from the most reliable source.”
Explain the meaning student-friendly definition)	Reliable means trustworthy or dependable. If we say that information comes from a reliable source, it means that the information is coming from someone who we can trust.
Students repeat the word	Say the word reliable with me: reliable .
Teacher gives examples of the word in other contexts	It’s important to have reliable friends so you know you can trust them. If I want to be a more reliable person, I have to make sure I always follow through on my promises and never give away other people’s secrets.
Students provide examples	Can you think of someone who is reliable ? Start by saying, “_____ is reliable because _____.”
Students repeat the word again.	What word are we talking about? reliable
Additional Vocabulary Words	unpleasant, impression

Build Student Background Knowledge

Pause while reading page 63. Ask your students if they think that someone can literally sit on top of the world. Why not? Explain that gravity is the force that attracts two objects toward each other. Gravity is the force that pulls humans to the ground. Humans cannot sit on top of the world, because gravity pulls a human toward its center.

Idioms and their Meanings

1.) In a Pickle

In trouble; in an unpleasant situation

2.) Butterflies in the Stomach

A weird feeling caused by fear or nervousness

3.) In one ear and out the other

Going through the mind without leaving an impression

4.) Up a tree

In difficulty; in trouble

5.) Keep your shirt on

Stay calm

6.) To put your foot in your mouth

To say something that you shouldn't have said

7.) To let the cat out of the bag

To reveal a secret, usually by accident

8.) Don't cry over spilled milk

It's useless to cry over what can't be undone

9.) Sitting on top of the world

Feeling extremely happy because of something you have accomplished

10.) Straight from the horse's mouth

Information from the most reliable source

Casey Saves the Play

Casey dipped her paintbrush in a tray of yellow paint. She was painting stars on a huge screen of wood. The school play this year was "Songs in Space!" Casey had agreed to paint the sets.

While she worked, the actors rehearsed on stage. A girl named Amelia had the lead role. She played an astronaut exploring a new planet. Now she was singing her big song.

*"I always thought that aliens were scary...
But on this planet the alien is me!"*

Casey quietly sang along as she painted. She had heard the play being practiced over and over. She knew the words to all the songs by heart. Her friend Kareem helped her paint. "You should try out for the next play," he said. "You're good." Casey blushed. "You're just saying that because you're my friend," she said. "I'm way too shy to act on stage like that."

The next day was the big dress rehearsal for the play. Casey and Kareem were done painting. They were cleaning up their supplies when Ms. Brown, the director, came in. "It's a disaster!" she said. "Poor Amelia broke her foot in gym today. She can't be in the play. What will we do?" Kareem raised his hand. "I know," he said. "Casey knows all the words to the songs. She can take over Amelia's part!"

Everyone looked at Casey. She suddenly wished she were invisible. "No way!" she said. "Not me!" "If this is true, Casey, you must do it!" Ms. Brown said. "It's the only way to save the play!"

The Great Escape

"Thanks for letting me help out in your pet shop, Uncle Bill," Sarah said. "I won't disappoint you."

"You can start by feeding the guinea pigs," her uncle told her. "Just be careful and make sure you close the pen when you're done. Those little guys love to escape."

"No problem," Sarah said. She got the bag of guinea pig food and opened the pen. The phone rang while she was working. Uncle Bill talked for a minute, then walked up to her.

"Sarah, I've got to run out for a few minutes," he said. "I've got a hamster emergency to take care of."

"I'll take good care of things while you're gone," Sarah promised. Uncle Bill left, and Sarah poured the guinea pig food into the bowl in the pen. The little animals crowded around the bowl. Then Sarah heard a crash. She turned around to see that one of the plastic fish bowls had fallen over. She ran to the bowl and quickly scooped up the fish. She put the fish in another bowl and cleaned up the water. Then she went back to the guinea pig pen.

"Oh no!" Sarah cried. She had accidentally left the pen open. The guinea pigs had escaped!