

Figurative Language – Inferring Meaning

Some expressions in English do not have the exact meaning ; they have a figurative meaning. It's a way for authors to express their ideas in a more colourful and poetic way.

What is the meaning the author wants to express in each example?

Choose the best answer.

1. The kid is as strong as a lion.

- a) The kid is a lion.
- b) The kid is really strong.

2. It is raining cats and dogs outside.

- a) Cats and dogs are falling from the sky.
- b) It's raining very heavily outside.

3. I am so hungry I could eat a horse.

- a) I am very hungry.
- b) I want to eat a horse.

4. Alia and Alice smiled for the camera like movie stars.

- a) Alia and Alice had big, beautiful smiles.
- b) Alia and Alice picked a movie to watch.

5. Ria's hair looked like wild vines.

- a) Ria has beautiful hair.
- b) Ria's hair was tangled.

6. The pile of leaves is like a pillow.

- a) The pile of leaves is on a pillow.
- b) The pile of leaves is soft.

7. Whenever I am having a hard time, my mother is my rock.

- a) My mother is on a rock.
- b) My mother is a stone statue.
- c) My mother is dependable and always there to help me.

8. The ocean at night was a large pool of ink.

- a) The ocean is a pool.
- b) The ocean is made of ink.
- c) The ocean was very dark.

9. My dog is as smelly as dirty socks.

- a) My dog likes to smell dirty socks.
- b) My dog smells really badly.