

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Main Character Energy: Your 12th Grade Idioms Mastery Quiz

Go beyond literal translations to analyze the socioeconomic origins and rhetorical power of high-level English expressions within professional and literary contexts.

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**1. In a high-stakes corporate negotiation, a CEO might say they are 'sailing close to the wind.' What is the most accurate synthesis of the risk management strategy being described?**

- A. Operating with maximum efficiency but staying within legal boundaries.
- B. Acting on the verge of what is acceptable or legal to gain an advantage.
- C. Ignoring market trends to pursue a traditionalist business model.
- D. Relinquishing control of a company's assets to avoid a hostile takeover.

**2. When a diplomat Refuses to take a definitive side in a geopolitical conflict to maintain neutrality, they are often described as 'sitting on the \_\_\_\_\_.'**

- A. edge
- B. fence
- C. wall
- D. bench

**3. The expression 'to gild the lily' refers to the act of improving something already perfect in a way that is unnecessary and likely to spoil its beauty.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. If an investigative journalist is warned not to 'open a Pandora's box,' what are they being cautioned against?**

- A. Revealing a minor truth that will lead to a positive resolution.
- B. Wasting time on a lead that is likely to be a dead-end.
- C. Starting a process that will lead to many unforeseen and complex problems.
- D. Breaking a non-disclosure agreement that results in financial loss.

**5. In a philosophical debate, if one participant argues against a weak, distorted version of their opponent's actual position, they are committing the '\_\_\_\_\_ man' fallacy.**

- A. Iron
- B. Tin
- C. Hollow
- D. Straw

**6. The expression 'to throw down the gauntlet' originated from the medieval custom of a knight challenging another to combat by tossing his armored glove on the ground.**

- A. True

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

B. False

**7. An editor describes a manuscript as having 'too many bells and whistles.' In the context of literary criticism, what is the editor likely criticizing?**

- A. The lack of sufficient character development in the secondary cast.
- B. Excessive, non-essential features that distract from the main purpose or plot.
- C. The author's failure to include auditory imagery and onomatopoeia.
- D. A narrative structure that relies too heavily on chronological flashbacks.

**8. Critics of the legislative bill argued that while the proposed changes seemed helpful, 'the \_\_\_\_\_ is in the details,' suggesting hidden complications.**

- A. ghost
- B. devil
- C. truth
- D. answer

**9. Which of the following scenarios best illustrates the concept of a 'Pyrrhic victory'?**

- A. A student wins a debate but loses the respect and friendship of their peers in the process.
- B. A sports team wins the championship game through a series of lucky accidents.
- C. A politician loses an election but manages to influence the national platform.
- D. An artist gains posthumous fame after living a life of obscurity and poverty.

**10. If a modern historian argues that a specific event was 'the watershed moment' of the century, they mean the event was insignificant and quickly forgotten.**

- A. True
- B. False