

Name: _____ Date: _____

Will You Miss the Subtext? 9th Grade Idiomatic Expressions Quiz

Deconstruct complex metaphors and analyze linguistic nuances within classic literature and contemporary rhetoric to prove your mastery of figurative speech.

1. In a political debate, a candidate is accused of 'whistling past the graveyard.' What does this idiom imply about the candidate's behavior?

- A. They are showing disrespect to their ancestors.
- B. They are trying to remain cheerful despite a dire or dangerous situation.
- C. They are actively seeking a confrontation with their opponent.
- D. They are mourning the loss of a previous policy or law.

2. The CEO's decision to cut the research budget was seen as '____ the goose that lays the golden eggs,' sacrificing long-term prosperity for short-term gain.

- A. Feeding
- B. Hunting
- C. Killing
- D. Staling

3. True or False: If a lawyer describes a piece of evidence as a 'red herring,' they are claiming it is the most critical fact in the case.

- A. True
- B. False

4. When a character in a novel is described as having an 'albatross around their neck,' what does this figuratively represent?

- A. A high-ranking social status
- B. An obsession with maritime history
- C. A heavy psychological burden or past mistake
- D. A lucky charm that brings success

5. After failing to secure the lead role, the actor claimed the part wasn't very good anyway—a classic example of '____ grapes.'

- A. Bitter
- B. Sour
- C. Rotten
- D. Wild

6. True or False: If a diplomat says they are 'crossing the Rubicon,' they mean they have reached a point of no return where a decision cannot be undone.

- A. True

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B. False

7. In the context of architectural criticism, describing an expensive but useless stadium as a 'white elephant' suggests it is:

- A. A rare and beautiful masterpiece.
- B. A tribute to wildlife conservation.
- C. A possession that is very costly to maintain but yields no profit.
- D. A structure that has lasted for centuries.

8. The journalist decided to '___ the sword' by refusing to reveal her anonymous sources, even when threatened with jail time.

- A. Fall on
- B. Sharpen
- C. Sheath
- D. Cross

9. True or False: If a scientist says their discovery happened 'in a vacuum,' they mean it was influenced by many outside factors and other researchers.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which idiom best describes a situation where someone accidentally helps the person they are trying to oppose?

- A. Biting the hand that feeds you
- B. Playing into someone's hands
- C. Washing your hands of it
- D. Having your hands tied