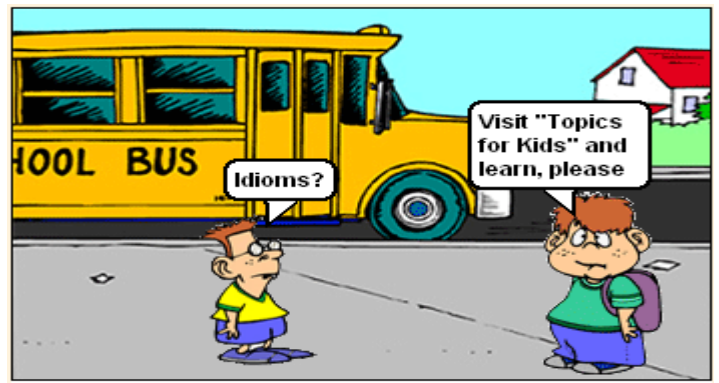


IDIOMS AND PHRASES

Meanings & Examples

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Lesson Extension:

While reading "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," we came across an interesting phrase: "Eat each other up alive" (MLL pg. 150, line 115-117). Due to the context, we easily comprehended that Steve Brand was not referring to a future act of cannibalism. However, this saying allowed us to investigate the topic of idioms.

In this activity, you will explore what idioms are and why we use them. We will also learn what they are not and if they have any limitations. (*Resources:* BrainPop and other teacher-made materials.)

Task 1: Use the Internet to research idioms. Then select an idiom to illustrate. Your drawing must portray the literal meaning of your idiom (through an illustration) as well as provide its figurative meaning (in text). You do not have to be an artist to complete this assignment. You may use pictures or other forms of graphics/digital images. See below for a few student examples. Remember, your work must be high in quality and suitable to submit as a project.



You don't have to jump down my throat.

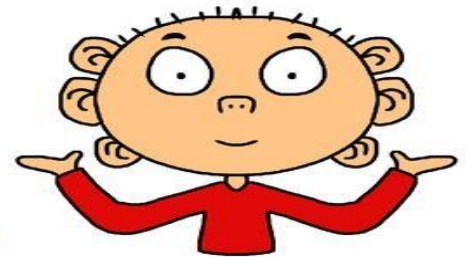
You don't have to be angry with me.

Written All Over Your Face



Means that everyone can tell how you are feeling by looking at your face.

I'm All Ears



-means you are ready to listen-

Exploration Activity

During our lesson on idioms, we discussed why most idioms can only be used effectively in their native language. (In short, the words do not translate well, and the figurative meaning becomes lost.) However, almost every language has its own unique idiomatic expressions. For example, in Italy, they use the phrase "to catch two pigeons with one bean." In Germany, a popular expression is "to shoot two flies with one shot." The foreign idioms, although similar to our English version ("to kill two birds with one shot"), do not necessarily convey the immediate meaning of 'doing two things at one time' to us.

Task 2: Use the Internet to explore the global use of idioms. Select at least three foreign idioms (used in other languages), illustrate their literal meaning, and explain (in text) their figurative meanings. If you can find their origin, include that information as well. See below for examples. Remember, your work must be high in quality and suitable to submit as a project.

