**5th Grade Literacy  
RL5.4 Figurative Language**

**Learning Snapshot**

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| **Learning Targets** | **Number of Correct Items** |
| I can determine the meaning of words using context clues (including figurative language). | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 4** |
| I can determine the meaning of phrases using context clues (including figurative language). | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 2** |
| I can determine if a phrase is a simile or metaphor. | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 2** |
| I can explain words and phrases using context clues (including figurative language). | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 2** |
| I can support my answer using text evidence. | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 2** |
| I can construct phrases and sentences to demonstrate understanding of  words in context (including figurative language). | **\_\_\_\_\_ out of 2** |



Part One: RL 5.4

I can determine the meaning of words using context clues (including figurative language).

I can determine the meaning of phrases using context clues (including figurative language).

I can explain words and phrases using context clues (including figurative language).

I can support my answer using text evidence.

I can construct phrases and sentences to demonstrate understanding of words in context (including figurative language).

**Directions: Read the passage and answer the multiple choice questions.**

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| **The Animal Whisperer**  **1**  “Could you do me a favor?” Sarah’s father asked as he put down his CB radio. “Dan says some important visitors have just arrived, and they’ve requested a tour. Would you mind?”  **2** Sarah looked up from her book. “Aw, Dad, can’t Jason do it?”  **3** “He’s helping the keepers with the orangutans,” said her father. “Please, Sarah? I’m run off my feet today.”  **4** Sarah could see the tension in his face and knew she should oblige. “All right then.” She slid off the bed and started to pull on her boots.  **5** “Thanks,” he said. “Can you meet them at the otter enclosure? Just show them around for half an hour. I know you’ll do a great job. There might be other whisperers around, but you're the best.” He smiled and left the room.  **6** Sarah stood and caught her reflection in the mirror. Could people tell there was something special about her just by looking? Her plain, solemn face stared back. She always wished she didn’t look so serious. Sarah shook her head and then hurried out the front door. The fragrance of the morning rain still hung in the air as she went past the aviaries.  **7** A little further up the path, she could see Dan waiting with a family of four- two parents and two young children. The family glanced at her then turned their attention back to the otters, which were frolicking about as usual. The family obviously thought she was too young to be their tour guide. Knowing, Dan he probably hadn’t mentioned that Sarah was only 12.  **8** Dan saw her and waved. She waved back and strode up to the family, flashing a smile. “Hi, I’m Sarah. I’m the zoo director’s daughter.”  **9** She saw the parents exchange puzzled looks. | **10** “You’ll be in great hands with Sarah,” said Dan. “She’s an animal whisperer.”  **11** The parents looked more bewildered.  **12** “Like a horse whisperer,” Sarah broke in. “But I can communicate with almost all animals. See…?”  **13** She pointed at the otters. They had stopped playing and had scampered up the barrier. Sarah climbed over it, bent down, and spoke soothingly to them in her melodious voice. pushed their heads into Sarah’s shoulder, nuzzling her.  **14** Sarah heard the family gasp. She had grown accustomed to that happening. Animal whisperers weren’t the sort of people you encountered every day.  **1. The word oblige (paragraph 4) means:**   1. Not help 2. Complain 3. Teach 4. Do a favor   **2. The word melodious (paragraph 12) means:**   1. Silent 2. Harsh 3. Musical 4. squeaky   **3. Choose the best meaning of the phrase “grown accustomed to.” (paragraph 13)**   1. Become used to 2. Wanted to very much   C. become obvious  D. learned to listen  4. **Find two words used to describe the parents that mean the same as confused.**   1. communicate 2. puzzled 3. glanced 4. bewildered 5. looked |

**5**.  **What does the phrase “run off my feet.” (paragraph 3) mean in your own words.**

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**6. Create another phrase that means the same as “run off my feet.”**

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| **Weathering the Storm**  **By: Kristine Nannini**  My mom’s eyes were glued to the television as she hoped for good news. No one thought we would see a storm like this in New York. Since my dad is a firefighter, he has to work all night and can’t be home with us. He will be spending the entire night working to evacuate elderly citizens from their homes to safer locations before the storm gets worse.  New Yorkers can’t deal with hurricanes. “We’re like fish out of water,” said Dad. “Just please be careful and call me when you can,” Mom demanded. I’m amazed that my mom is able to keep calm when the news reports keep showing nothing but ***despair*** during emergencies like these. You can’t even watch a news report today without feeling hopeless, or like it’s the end of the world.  “We are here, live on the scene, with the storm of the century,” yelled Harry Cane, our local meteorologist. “These winds sound like a freight train,” exclaimed Harry, who was fighting just to stand up in the strong winds. “In a storm like this, the warehouse behind me is a deck of cards just waiting to be blown over. “Back to you, Skip,” screamed Harry.  “Why is anyone even outside right now?” I asked out loud, which brought a worried look to my mom’s face. But even though my mom was worried, I wasn’t. My dad is as tough as nails, and there isn’t any storm on the planet that will stop him. | 7**.** In the passage, the word ***evacuate*** means:   1. to gather 2. to remove 3. to find 4. to explore   8. The phrase **“the warehouse behind me is a deck of cards just waiting to be blown over”** is an example of which type of figurative language?   1. simile 2. metaphor 3. idiom 4. personification   9. The phrase **“these winds sound like a freight train”** is an example of which type of figurative language?   1. simile 2. metaphor 3. idiom 4. personification |

Read the following excerpt from the text and answer questions 4-5:

10. ***“New Yorkers can’t deal with hurricanes. “We’re like fish out of water,” said Dad.***

What does the phrase ***“we’re like fish out of water” mean in your words***?

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11. Support your answer with 1 piece of evidence from the text.

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Read the following excerpt from the text and answer questions 6-8:

**I’m amazed that my mom is able to keep calm when the news reports keep showing nothing but *despair* during emergencies like these.**

12.What is the meaning of the word ***despair*** in the excerpt?

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13. Support your answer with one piece of evidence from the text.

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14. Use the word ***despair*** in a sentence to show that you understand the meaning.

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**bDelivery:**

* Pre-introduce the snapshot to the students.
* They read on their own.
* Teacher will only monitor; no side help unless IEP.
* Only pulling students back if IEP instructs to.

**Answer Key**

1. **D - do a favor**
2. **C - musical**
3. **A - become used to**
4. **B & D - puzzled and bewildered**
5. **Answers will vary. To be exceptionally busy, especially to an exhausting or exasperating degree.**
6. **B- to remove**
7. **B- metaphor**
8. **A- simile**
9. **Answers will vary - a person away from his or her usual environment or activities.**
10. **Paragraph 2- “New Yorkers can’t deal with hurricanes.”**
11. **Feeling hopeless**
12. **End of paragraph 2- “You can’t even watch a news report today without feeling hopeless, or like it’s the end of the world.”**
13. **Answers will vary- The coming thunder storm gave her a feeling of despair.**

**Grading Scale 5**

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| **In Need of Support** | **Close** | **Ready** | **Exceeding** |
| **0-9** | **10** | **11-12** | **13-14** |