Name: _____ Date: _____

# Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Circle group

Ollie took every word just as it was said. His grandpa did not know this yet.

One wet day, Grandpa said, "It is raining cats and dogs." Ollie ran to the window. He looked for a puppy. He saw only rain.

At lunch, Grandpa said, "Hold your horses." Ollie looked at his hands. "I have a sandwich," he said. "I have no horses."

Before the piano show, Grandpa said, "Break a leg!" Ollie sat down fast. "I do not want to break a leg," he said. Grandpa laughed so hard he had to sit down.

Then Grandpa told him the truth. Some sayings mean something else. "Raining cats and dogs" means a lot of rain. "Break a leg" means good luck.

After the show, Ollie ran to Grandpa. "That was a piece of cake," he said. Grandpa looked around. "Where?" he asked. Ollie smiled and held out a real slice.

## Questions

**1. How did Ollie take words?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Ollie look for at the window?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Ollie have in his hands instead of horses?**

_____

_____

**4. What does break a leg mean?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Ollie sit down fast?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Grandpa look around for cake?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

sayings: short phrases that mean something different from their words

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Triangle group

Ollie took every word exactly as it was said. His grandpa did not know this yet.

One rainy day, Grandpa said, "It is raining cats and dogs." Ollie ran to the window. He looked for a puppy to catch. All he saw was rain.

At lunch, Grandpa said, "Hold your horses." Ollie looked at his hands. "I am holding a sandwich," he said. "I do not have any horses."

Before the piano show, Grandpa said, "Break a leg!" Ollie sat down very fast. "I do not want to break anything," he said. Grandpa laughed until he had to sit down too.

Then Grandpa explained. Some sayings do not mean what the words say. "Raining cats and dogs" means a big rain. "Break a leg" means good luck.

After the show, Ollie ran up to Grandpa. "That was a piece of cake," he said. Grandpa looked all around. "Where?" he asked. Ollie grinned and held out a real slice.

## Questions

**1. How did Ollie take the words he heard?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Ollie look for at the window?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Ollie say he was holding instead of horses?**

_____

_____

**4. What does the saying break a leg mean?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Ollie sit down so fast when Grandpa said break a leg?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Grandpa look around for cake?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

exactly: just the same, with nothing changed
sayings: short phrases that mean something different from their words
explained: told in a way that helps someone understand
grinned: smiled a big, wide smile

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Square group

Ollie understood every word in the most literal way possible. His grandpa had not figured this out yet.

One rainy afternoon, Grandpa remarked, "It is raining cats and dogs." Ollie dashed to the window and searched for a puppy to rescue. All he could see was rain.

At lunch, Grandpa said, "Hold your horses." Ollie examined his hands carefully. "I am only holding a sandwich," he replied. "I do not have any horses."

Just before the piano show, Grandpa called out, "Break a leg!" Ollie sat down very quickly. "I do not want to break anything," he protested. Grandpa laughed until he was forced to sit down as well.

Then Grandpa explained that some sayings do not mean what their words say. "Raining cats and dogs" means a heavy rain, and "break a leg" means good luck.

After the show, Ollie hurried up to Grandpa. "That was a piece of cake," he announced. Grandpa glanced all around the room. "Where?" he asked. Ollie grinned and held out a real slice.

## Questions

**1. In what way did Ollie understand every word he heard?**

_____

_____

**2. What did Ollie search for at the window?**

_____

_____

**3. What did Ollie say he was holding instead of horses?**

_____

_____

**4. What does the saying break a leg really mean?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did Ollie sit down so quickly when Grandpa said break a leg?**

_____

_____

**6. Why did Grandpa glance all around the room after Ollie said piece of cake?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

sayings: short phrases that mean something different from their words
explained: told in a way that helps someone understand
grinned: smiled a big, wide smile

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Easier · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.2

1. Just as they were said.
2. A puppy.
3. A sandwich.
4. Good luck.
5. He thought he might break his leg.
6. He thought Ollie meant real cake. The saying means it was easy.

### Triangle: Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

This passage · 158 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Exactly as they were said.
2. A puppy to catch.
3. A sandwich.
4. Good luck.
5. He thought he might really break something.
6. He thought Ollie meant real cake, but the saying means something was easy.

### Square: Ollie and the Raining Cats and Dogs

Harder · 170 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. In the most literal way, exactly as it was said.
2. A puppy to rescue.
3. A sandwich.
4. Good luck.
5. He believed he might really break something.
6. He thought Ollie meant real cake, but the saying means something was easy.