

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

“Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto

Reading Strategy: Interpreting Idioms

Does the steady drip of a leaky faucet *drive you up a wall*? The words in italics in the previous sentence are an **idiom**—an expression or figure of speech whose meaning cannot be taken literally. Idioms are unique to a particular language or region. They are lively forms of informal language. The intended meaning of an idiom usually differs from its literal, or exact word-for-word, meaning. In the idiom *drive you up a wall*, the literal meaning is to force you to move vertically up the side of a room or building, but that is not what the idiom actually means. It means to greatly annoy or distract you.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the chart, analyzing some idioms that appear in "Seventh Grade." For each idiom given in italics, give its literal meaning, followed by its figurative meaning.

Idiom	Literal Meaning	Figurative Meaning
<i>had a crush on</i> Teresa		
his <i>mind was somewhere else</i>		
he managed to <i>catch her eye</i>		
How come you're <i>making a face</i> ?		