



Lyric Lesson 2: That's Just Ducky!

Put a new spin on some old sayings with this fun, interactive game of words. Teach students the literal and figurative meanings behind some of the world's most common proverbs. Find out why birds are the subjects of so many of our favorite sayings!

Lesson Overview

Students analyze proverbs and sayings to reveal their literal and figurative meanings.

Subjects

Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies, and Environmental Sciences

Place & Time

Classroom

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Activity Time: 45 minutes

Materials

Printouts of sayings

Key Terms

proverb, adages, literal and figurative language

Background Information

Proverbs and *adages* exist in all cultures around the world. They often become the cornerstones of a people's most common sayings. Some teach lessons. Some offer wisdom. And some are just used to describe a situation in someone's life. Understanding the difference between *literal* and *figurative* language helps students understand the true meaning behind these sayings, and offers context to an otherwise foreign concept. For example, saying to someone "that's just ducky" does not actually mean the subject being referenced is like a duck, but rather it figuratively means that something is good or enjoyable.

Students can have a lot of fun uncovering the meaning behind these sayings. Below are a list of some common American sayings which have birds as their subject. Birds are curious and animated figures, and some of their actual behaviors have inspired humans to use them as references for some of our most used sayings.

Below is a list of sayings. Pair students and ask each pair to take a saying(s). Have them research the origin and then create an illustration of that saying. For example, "that's just ducky" might have a group of ducks doing something silly. Let them use their imagination. Gather the group up at the end and have each pair show off their illustration, and have the other students try to guess which proverb they are trying to illustrate. Have fun!

Activity Time!

That's just ducky!

Like water off a duck's back

Wise as an owl

Something worth crowing about

Madder than a wet hen

Hen party

Light as a feather

Eagle eye

Jaywalking

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

My little chickadee

Stuffed like a Christmas goose

Naked as a jaybird

Run around like a chicken with its head cut off

Nest egg

The goose that laid the golden egg

