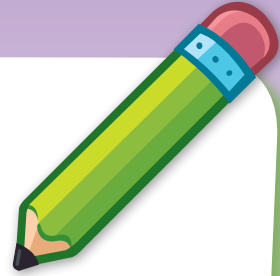


CATCH MY DRIFT?

In *My Weirdest School #1: Mr. Cooper Is Super!*, humor is created through the use of idioms. Idioms are casual expressions from everyday language whose meaning isn't obvious from looking at the individual words. For example, when Super Librarian and Mr. Cooper are fighting, A.J. and the rest of his classmates are "glued to their seats." Well, not really, but they thought the fighting was pretty cool.

PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER

Recalling the events of the story, fill in the blanks of the book summary below with idioms that complete the action. Work with a partner to decipher the meaning of each expression.



IDIOM BANK:

spitting image
good egg
out of the blue
field day

stepped up to the plate
a dime a dozen
pedal to the metal
over the top

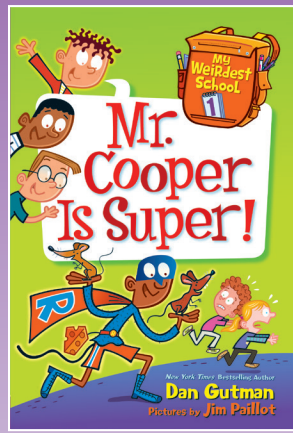
going the extra mile
have an axe to grind
second to none

Seeing an alien spaceship land in the playground of Ella Mentry School (1.) _____ surprised A.J. and his classmates. When aliens who were the (2.) _____ of their third-grade teacher, Mr. Granite, walked down the ramp, everyone was shocked. Apparently, Mr. Granites are (3.) _____ on planet Etinarg. The aliens apologized to Mr. Klutz, Ella Mentry's principal, for being late in returning to retrieve Mr. Granite. Etinarg is a hundred million light years away so they had to put the (4.) _____. All the third graders were upset at the thought of losing Mr. Granite because he was such a (5.) _____. Everyone was anxious to see the new third-grade teacher. When Mr. Cooper fell into the classroom wearing a superhero costume the next morning, all the kids thought he was (6.) _____. It turned out that he was an engaging teacher, (7.) _____ with his lessons. However, he was no match for his archenemy, Super Librarian, who always seemed to (8.) _____. When they squared off and started karate chopping and kicking because of an overdue library book, A.J. and his gang had a (9.) _____ watching the action. When a spaceship landed on the playground for a second time, Mr. Cooper (10.) _____ to save Ella Mentry School. Luckily, it was just Mr. Granite again, returning his key to the faculty lounge. Because everyone knows when you borrow something, you must return it. Mr. Cooper really is (11.) _____!

Answer Key: 1. out of the blue; 2. spitting image; 3. a dime a dozen; 4. pedal to the metal; 5. good egg; 6. over the top; 7. going the extra mile; 8. have an axe to grind; 9. field day; 10. stepped up to the plate; 11. second to none

Addresses the following ELA Common Core Reading and Writing Standards: **RL3.4 – 4.4**

Prepared by Mary VandeWater, Professor of Reading and Basic Education, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY.



HUMOROUS HAIKU

In *My Weirdest School #1: Mr. Cooper Is Super!*, A.J. and his classmates experience some strangely funny events. Using the humor found in these situations, create a hilarious haiku with an unexpected last line to complete the joke . . . like a punch line.

INSTRUCTIONS:

✿ A haiku is an unrhymed three-line poem with the middle line slightly longer than the other two (see an example below).

✿ Select one of these funny subjects taken from the story to write about:

- returning something borrowed
- changing the subject
- annoying classmates
- parents using traffic as an excuse for being late
- why Mr. Cooper is weird
- the teachers' lounge
- an alien spaceship coming to Earth
- superpowers
- having your own key
- a superhero costume, cape required
- learning math
- why Mrs. Roopy is weird
- Dewey Decimal System
- overdue library books

✿ Refer to the story to find details on your chosen topic.

✿ Read your haiku aloud to a classmate. Does it paint a clear picture of your topic? Can your partner guess what the poem was written about? Did it make you laugh?

SAMPLE TOPIC: How A.J. felt about learning math

SAMPLE HAIKU:

It's time for math, so open your books
Turn to the chapter on complex fractions
It's all complex to me!



Addresses the following ELA Common Core Reading and Writing Standards: *RL3.1 – 4.1; W3.1 – 4.1*

Prepared by Mary VandeWater, Professor of Reading and Basic Education, Nassau Community College, Garden City, NY.