



Teacher Notes: Idioms Mini-Lesson

The *Cinderella* unit includes a mini-lesson on the use of idiomatic expressions (idioms), which can be challenging for English language learners to understand. These teacher notes accompany the Idioms PowerPoint and are also included in the notes section of the PowerPoint.

Suggested teacher prompts are noted in bold, and anticipated student responses are indicated in parentheses. Teachers are not expected to read the notes directly; rather, the notes are cued to serve as a guided model for teachers to ask the questions in their own words.

Idiomatic Expressions Mini Lesson

#1. Idioms Introduction

[Hand out the Day 3 Student Charts. Tell students to turn to Activity 3A.]

An idiomatic expression is a phrase where the words put together have a meaning that is different from the definitions of the individual words.

The literal meaning is what the words mean when put together; the actual meaning of the phrase is often different. It can get confusing!

#2. Take a wife

Let's think about the expression 'take a wife.' In the book, it says that Cinderella's father took another wife when her mother died.

Take means to grab or carry something away. Wife means a woman who is married.

So who thinks that 'take a wife' means to grab or carry someone away who is married?

[Count any raised hands]

Partner Talk

What does 'take a wife' really mean?



#3. Take a wife (continued)

'Take a wife' means to get married to a woman. This man just took a wife. He got married to her.

Write the real or actual definition of *to take a wife* in your student chart.

#4. Rule with an iron fist

Now let's think about the expression 'rule with an iron fist.' In the book it says that Cinderella's stepmother ruled her father with an iron fist.

Rule means to govern or control something, like a king.

#5. Rule with an iron fist (continued)

Iron is a hard metal. A fist is a hand with the fingers bent in.

Who thinks that 'rule with an iron fist' means to govern or control someone with a fist made out of hard metal?

[Count any raised hands]

Does anyone know what it really means?

#6. Rule with an iron fist (continued)

'Rule with an iron fist' means to be very strict. This teacher rules with an iron fist. She is very strict.

Partner Talk

Have you ever met anyone who rules with an iron fist? Talk about how that person acted.

Write the real or actual definition of *rule with an iron fist* in your student chart.

#7. With all her heart

Now let's think about the expression 'with all her heart.' In the book it says that Cinderella wanted to go to the ball with all her heart.

A heart is the organ in the body that pumps blood. Put your hands over your heart.



[Model putting your hand over your heart.]

Who thinks that ‘with all her heart’ means with the organ in her body that pumps blood?

[Count any raised hands]

Does anyone know what it really means?

#8. With all her heart (continued)

‘Heart’ is often used in expressions to mean a strong feeling. ‘With all her heart’ means with a very strong feeling.

In the picture, the dog wants to go home with someone with all its heart. It wants a new home very much.

Partner Talk

Say something that you have wanted with all of your heart.

Write the real or actual meaning of *with all her heart* in your student chart.

Partner Talk

Can you think of other idioms that are not in the book?