

# Vocabulary Strategy

## LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE MEANINGS

The **literal** meaning of a word is its most common definition. The **figurative** meaning of a word is an expanded meaning that has emerged from the basic definition. For example, the literal meaning of *erupt* is “to explode from a volcano with fire and noise.” Now *erupt* is also used figuratively to refer to a person or animal “exploding” with emotion.

**A. Directions:** For each boldfaced word, write its literal and figurative meaning.

1. The bright sun **bathed** me with warmth.

Literal meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The news of her marriage was **fodder** for all of the gossips in town.

Literal meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

3. A **blanket** of snow soon covered the sleeping farm.

Literal meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

4. A **burst** of wind ripped the pages from my hands.

Literal meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Directions:** Write two sentences using the word *mule*. Use the literal sense of *mule* in one sentence and the figurative sense in the other.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

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