

Hidden Meanings Hunt Answer Key

1. hot water → in trouble
2. dragging his feet → moving slowly or wasting time
3. throw in the towel → give up or quit
4. hit my stride → start performing well or confidently
5. keep my chin up → stay positive even when things are hard

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Strengthening understanding of **idiomatic language** through contextual reading and interpretation.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For younger or struggling students, pre-teach idioms using visual aids or gestures.
 - For older or advanced learners, have them find and explain additional idioms from other readings.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Turn the activity into a "Detective Mission" where students earn points for each idiom they correctly identify and explain.
 - Act out idioms in pairs or small groups to reinforce their meanings in a fun, kinesthetic way.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Have students write their own mini-stories using at least three idioms naturally in context.
 - Challenge them to illustrate an idiom literally vs. figuratively to show how the meanings differ.