

Name _____

Date _____

Literal and Implied Meanings

Definition

Literal meaning refers to the exact, dictionary definition of words or phrases. **Implied meaning** goes beyond the literal meaning and suggests ideas that are not directly stated but can be inferred from context, tone, or word choice.

Literal Meanings

Expression	Literal Interpretation
"The temperature outside is freezing."	The actual temperature is at or below 32°F/0°C
"She has a green thumb."	Her thumb is colored green
"Time flies."	Time physically moves through air like a bird

Implied Meanings

Expression	Literal Interpretation
The teacher's response was freezing.	The teacher was unfriendly or cold in manner
She has a green thumb.	She's good at gardening or growing plants
Time flies.	Time passes quickly or seems to go by fast

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

For each sentence about Maya religious ceremonies, identify whether the underlined portion represents literal meaning, implied meaning, or both.

1. During important ceremonies, Maya priests climbed to the top of their stone temples to be closer to the gods.

- a) literal meaning only
- b) implied meaning only
- c) both literal and implied meaning
- d) neither literal nor implied meaning

2. The Maya believed that human offerings would feed the gods and ensure good harvests.

- a) literal meaning only
- b) implied meaning only
- c) both literal and implied meaning
- d) neither literal nor implied meaning

3. Sacred ritual objects were bathed in light as they were presented during ceremonies.

- a) literal meaning only
- b) implied meaning only
- c) both literal and implied meaning
- d) neither literal nor implied meaning

4. The Maya calendar was the heartbeat of their religious practices.

- a) literal meaning only
- b) implied meaning only
- c) both literal and implied meaning
- d) neither literal nor implied meaning

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5. After the ritual sacrifice, the priests would read the future in the sacred offerings.

- a) literal meaning only
- b) implied meaning only
- c) both literal and implied meaning
- d) neither literal nor implied meaning

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

For each statement about Maya rituals, explain the difference between the literal meaning and implied meaning.

1. "The king's blood nourished the earth."

Literal meaning: _____

Implied meaning: _____

2. "The sacrifice opened the door to the otherworld."

Literal meaning: _____

Implied meaning: _____

3. "The priest wore the face of the jaguar god during the ceremony."

Literal meaning: _____

Implied meaning: _____

4. "The temple steps were rivers of color during festivals."

Literal meaning: _____

Implied meaning: _____

5. "The people harvested the gods' favor through their offerings."

Literal meaning: _____

Implied meaning: _____

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Literal and Implied Meanings – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. B
5. B

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. Literal meaning: The king's actual blood fell onto the soil/ground
Implied meaning: The king's sacrifice ensured fertility and prosperity for the kingdom

2. Literal meaning: The sacrifice created a physical doorway or entrance

Implied meaning: The sacrifice created a spiritual connection between the human world and the divine realm

3. Literal meaning: The priest wore a mask resembling a jaguar

Implied meaning: The priest embodied or channeled the spirit/power of the jaguar deity

4. Literal meaning: Liquid colorful substances flowed down the temple stairs

Implied meaning: Many colorfully dressed people or decorations covered the temple stairs during celebrations

5. Literal meaning: People physically gathered or collected divine favor like crops

Implied meaning: People earned or secured divine blessings and protection through their ritual sacrifices