**Literal Idioms**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Idioms are groups of words with a meaning different from their literal definition. So, once you understand the figurative meaning of an idiom, you can have fun using it in a literal sense.

*I had a* ***rude awakening*** *when waves* ***rocked the boat****. I felt numb and had to* ***shake a leg*** *to stand up. I* ***put my best foot forward*** *and stepped* ***over and above*** *the stern seat to start the motor and* ***shift into high gear****.*

Read through the following idioms, and if any are unfamiliar, look up the meaning in *Write for College* or online. Pick out four or more idioms that interest you and use them all literally in a short, ridiculous paragraph.

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| ahead of the curve  big picture  break the ice  cold shoulder  drop in the bucket  face the music  fall through the cracks  floating on air  elephant in the room | hands are tied  hit the ceiling  in the long run  in the loop  land on your feet  learn the ropes  nose to the grindstone  out the window  raise the bar | red tape  save face  see eye to eye  shoot from the hip  take the bull by the horns  throw in the towel  touch base  up in the air  work the bugs out |