



Friendship through Thick and Thin.

I awoke earlier than usual on this particular morning. I think it was because I felt a bit under the weather and I knew it would be a horrible day when I opened my curtains to find it was raining cats and dogs. My mum called me down for breakfast and said,

“Jo, come here at once, I’ve got a bone to pick with you!”

“What have I done now?” I replied

“You lied about your homework this week; you did have some after all! I thought I could smell a rat last night when you swung the lead.”



That was it, I’d been caught red handed and it was time to face the music.



That was when my mum completely lost her head.

“How did you find out?” I mumbled.

“Your friend from your school rang and said they needed your help. Sam somebody,” she yelled. At first I couldn’t think who she was talking about but then the name rang a bell. By this point we were at complete loggerheads with each other. In my opinion she was just making a mountain out of a molehill, but I suppose she did have a point. I knew I shouldn’t have lied and so I told her I’d try to turn over a new leaf.



I left the house at 8.30am. It was still raining cats and dogs and I hung my head as I ran to school. When I arrived I knew that more trouble was near.

My two groups of friends were having a huge argument. I tried not to get into hot water but then I realised the fight was my fault and I couldn’t just sit on the fence.



“Why did you let the cat out of the bag about me being caught shop lifting?” my so-called friend Kim aimed at me. I stood there like a fruitcake. I didn’t know what to say, so I just stared at her. Then at my other so-called friend, who must have told her that I had told. It was such a mess.

“What’s the matter, cat got your tongue?” Kim continued, “You’re always blowing your own trumpet, that’s your trouble! As if you never do anything wrong.” Then everything went black.



When I came round I realised that Kim had hit me. It was time for me to make a clean breast of it. Fortunately, Kim accepted my apology and we agreed to bury the hatchet. Things nearly went wrong again however, when I said I’d told my Mum about the shoplifting, until I said that I was only kidding! Then we looked at each other, grinned and started laughing.

“Best friends?” I asked holding out my hand.

“Best friends forever!”



As I left that day and began to walk home with Kim, I felt a completely different feeling inside compared with how I’d felt that morning. I was on top of the world, knowing my friendship with Kim had survived through thick and thin.

(Adapted from a story called ‘*Bee in a bonnet*’)

Now you've read the story, practise your skimming and scanning techniques to find these phrases. Underline or highlight them when you find them.

face the music

raining cats and dogs

under the weather

caught red handed

get into hot water

through thick and thin.

a clean breast of it.

smell a rat

swung the lead

let the cat out of the bag

sit on the fence.

I've got a bone to pick with you!"

Next, for some detective work. How many of the phrases did you recognise? These are all **idioms**.

An **idiom** is a word, phrase, or expression whose meaning cannot be looked up in a dictionary and taken 'literally'.

Can you try to explain what the writer means by these idioms.

e.g to '*feel under the weather*' means to feel unwell.

I've got a bone to pick with you!

raining cats and dogs

smell a rat

caught red handed

face the music

get into hot water

let the cat out of the bag

sit on the fence.

a clean breast of it.

through thick and thin.



Now we are going to look at an idiom; '**Taking the Plunge**' which means committing yourself to doing something when you're feeling very nervous to do so. This theme is our focus for this week's comprehension task.