

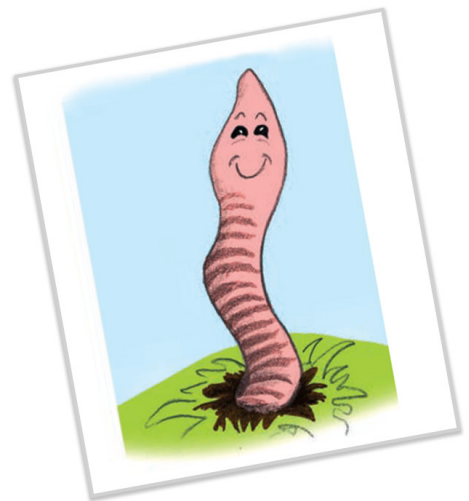
The Early Bird Catches the Worm

a sample from *All About® Reading Level 4*

the icing
on the cake



the early bird
catches the
worm



by
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 **ALL ABOUT** *Reading*

Level 4

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Your student will frequently encounter idioms in everyday speech and while reading, so it's beneficial to expand his vocabulary to include them. In this activity, students will learn twelve common idioms such as *a dime a dozen* and *the last straw*.

Instructions

1. Print pages 3-4 of this activity back-to-back.
2. Cut out the worm cards and place them on table with the illustrations facing up.
3. "You've already learned many idioms, like *to live high on the hog* and *to have stars in your eyes*. Idioms are fun expressions that help us describe things in a colorful way. Now let's catch some worms who love idioms!"
4. Have your student select a worm card and read the phrase on the back. If possible, your student should use the idiom in a sentence or explain what it means. If he doesn't know what the idiom means, explain it to him. Continue until all the worm cards have been read.

Answer Key

<i>the early bird catches the worm</i>	a person who is early and well-prepared will reap rewards and have success
<i>a dime a dozen</i>	something that is easily obtained and not unique or special
<i>a drop in the bucket</i>	a small amount, barely noticeable when compared to the whole
<i>get the ball rolling</i>	to take steps to get started
<i>the last straw</i>	the last in a series of problems before you can't tolerate any more
<i>the icing on the cake</i>	something that makes a good situation even better
<i>the best of both worlds</i>	to have the best characteristics of two situations or options
<i>it's raining cats and dogs</i>	it is raining heavily
<i>the elephant in the room</i>	a very obvious problem that no one wants to talk about
<i>don't bite off more than you can chew</i>	don't try to do more than you can handle
<i>don't judge a book by its cover</i>	avoid making judgments based only on how someone or something looks
<i>hit the nail on the head</i>	to be completely right or accurate



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