

# Standards Focus: Idioms and Expressions

## Part One

### Chapters 1-2

1. **take a broad view**: look at the situation in a larger sense; include all the details looking back
2. **made a pile**: made a lot of money
3. **established a line**: had several children who had their own children, creating several generations of family
4. **high spirits**: a good mood
5. **mind his own business**: pay attention to his own life, not anyone else's concerns
6. **wear us out**: give a spanking to
7. **heard a sound out of us**: heard us make noise
8. **my stars**: an expression of surprise like "oh, my goodness!"
9. **followed on his heels**: followed directly behind
10. **imagination run away with us**: to let your "imagination run away with you" means to create more and more stories in your mind so that the story becomes bigger
11. **having your tail in a crack**: to be put in a bad or difficult position
12. **starting off on the wrong foot**: getting off to a bad start

### Chapters 3-4

1. **half-cocked**: to go off half-cocked means that you start something without being fully prepared
2. **high and mighty**: better than everyone else
3. **I'd fix her**: I'd show her the truth; I'll prove it
4. **deep into the quick**: into the depths
5. **done my time**: completed my required term of stay, like a prisoner who does "time" (his required sentence)
6. **turns 'em loose**: lets the children out of school
7. **finders keepers**: a slang term meaning "whoever finds something gets to keep it as their own"
8. **in a pig's ear**: a saying meaning "no way"; a variation of the more popular "in a pig's eye"
9. **out of good graces**: out of favor with
10. **tan you**: spank you

### Chapters 5-6

1. **chameleon lady**: a lady who has many talents and interests; a chameleon changes its colors to adapt to any situation
2. **reaped the benefits**: enjoyed the rewards of
3. **get (her) goat**: to make a person angry or irritated
4. **acid tongue in her head**: someone who speaks harshly or bluntly
5. **grain of sense**: someone who doesn't have a grain of sense is someone who is not very bright or sensible
6. **game of cat-and-mouse**: like a cat chases after a mouse, to try to trick someone in order to win

7. **raveling a thread**: telling a story
8. **sit a spell**: sit down for a while
9. **keep on tellin' 'em**: keep telling your lies
10. **not a soul**: no one
11. **abandoned (my) post**: stopped doing what I was supposed to be doing, like a soldier who leaves his post (position), leaving everything unguarded
12. **dried up**: stopped talking
13. **the likes of us**: people like us

### Chapters 7-8

1. **climb into (his) skin**: try to realize what a person sees from his point of view
2. **trotting in our orbit**: keeping to ourselves
3. **do the honors**: to be the one to do something, usually something important
4. **slipped (his) memory**: forgot all about
5. **walked on eggs**: to act very carefully, so as to not disturb anyone
6. **working himself into a bad humor**: putting himself in a bad mood
7. **caused hardly a ripple**: wasn't anything important; did not cause a stir
8. **merely a twitch**: just a minor interest; a twitch is a jerky movement that does not last long
9. **died of fright**: was very scared
10. **my hind foot**: harsh opposition and disbelief, similar to "you're joking!"
11. **jim-dandy job**: a really good job
12. **stove up**: stove is the past tense of the colloquial "stave" meaning to crush or destroy a barrel, wooden box, or other wood fixture; "stove up" means that someone is sore, tired, and achy like they have been crushed or destroyed
13. **got another think coming**: often changed to "got another thing coming"; an expression that means "If that is what you think, you have another think coming" or "better think about that again"

### Chapters 9-11

1. **take that back**: an expression meaning "withdraw what you said or did as if it never happened" or "apologize for what you said or did"

**More idioms and expressions available in full version!**