

## Standards Focus: Idioms and Expressions

### Chapter One

1. 'coons: slang for raccoons, medium-sized mammals native to North America
2. jungle-up: at this time, a "jungle" was an area off the road where homeless people would camp; to "jungle-up" means to set up camp
3. "watchin' that blackboard": during this time, employment agencies would post any jobs available on a blackboard in front of their offices
4. "leave me have it": let me have it
5. "bucking": the process of harvesting
6. "bustin' a gut": working really hard
7. "puttin' nothing over": tricking
8. "sock you": punch you
9. "ain't fresh": is not sanitary or healthy
10. "in hot water": in trouble
11. "get a kick outta that": really like that
12. "poundin' their tail": working really hard
13. "blowin' our jack": wasting our money
14. "live off the fatta the lan": live off the profits provided by selling crops
15. cream is so thick "you can hardly cut it": milk that is left sitting will separate, making a thick cream at the top

### Chapter Two

1. "sore as hell": really angry
2. "pants rabbits": slang for crabs, a species of invertebrates that infest the pelvic region
3. "I ain't got the poop no more": "I don't have the energy anymore"
4. "gave us a bum steer": led in the wrong direction
5. "strong as a bull": extremely strong
6. "What you sellin'?: "What antics are you trying to pull?"
7. "flapper": mouth
8. "old man": father
9. "got on his shoulder": similar "chip on his shoulder", which means

- something bothering him; angry about something
10. "picking scraps": starting fights
  11. "game guy": competitive person
  12. "licks him": fights him and wins
  13. "purty": pretty
  14. "She got the eye": "She's a flirt."
  15. "give...the eye": flirt
  16. "pants is full of ants": jumpy and nervous
  17. "tart": a prostitute or promiscuous woman
  18. "get the can": get fired
  19. "let 'im have it": fight back
  20. "clear out": leave; move out
  21. jail bait: a derogatory term for a young girl who is perceived as trying to sleep with an older man
  22. "leave her be": leave her alone
  23. rattrap: a trap for rats; in this case, Curley's wife is a trap for men
  24. "eatin' raw eggs": some people believed that eating raw eggs could increase a man's strength and sexual stamina
  25. "bits": slang for "cents"
  26. "shove out of here": leave
  27. "hit a pocket": get lucky
  28. "slang": gave birth to
  29. "in heat": in a sexually receptive state
  30. "tangle with": fight with

### Chapter Three

1. cuckoo: a derogatory name for someone, like calling someone "crazy"; also a family of medium-sized, slender birds
2. "fifty and found": fifty dollars plus additional amenities, such as a sleeping room and meals
3. "clean forgot": outright forgot
4. "rabbits an' tells the law": runs away quickly and tells the police
5. "scrammed outta there": ran away as quickly as possible
6. "gut ache": stomach ache

7. cripple: a derogatory term for someone who is physically impaired in some way
8. “whing-ding”: a great writer; the best
9. “turning his hand”: doing any work
10. looloo: a good-looking girl
11. yella-jackets: “yellow jackets”—a common name for wasps in North America
12. flop: intercourse with a prostitute
13. “walkin’ bow legged”: Whit is referring to a man contracting a venereal disease from one of the prostitutes from Clara’s place
14. goo-goos: used to mean someone who is love-struck; a romantic
15. “see the fuss if it comes off”: see the fight if it happens
16. Jap: a derogatory term for a Japanese person
17. “flat bust”: completely poor
18. “swing her”: make it happen
19. “swamp out”: clean and take care of
20. “sling”: throw
21. “bind her”: satisfy her
22. “lay offa me”: leave me alone
23. “yella as a frog belly”: a coward
24. “like a fish on a line”: squirming like a fish that has been caught

#### Chapter Four

1. “crazy as a wedge”: mentally unstable
2. colored: an antiquated term for African-Americans
3. “took a powder”: left in a hurry
4. booby hatch: insane asylum
5. “take you out in a box”: remove your dead body in a coffin
6. twicet: a Southern term for “twice”

7. “bindle bums”: lazy migrants
8. floozy: another word for “prostitute”
9. “two-bit”: two cents; cheap
10. “two shots of corn”: two shots of corn whiskey
11. “roll your hoop”: reference to a game played by children in which they roll a large hoop, trying to keep it from falling
12. trap: mouth
13. “strung up on a tree”: hung from a tree
14. “got it doped out”: got it worked out; figured out

#### Chapter Five

1. “sonny boy”: slang term for “young man”
2. “tenement” (tournament): game
3. “pitchers” (pictures): movies
4. “ol’ lady”: wife or mother
5. “fella”: fellow
6. “previews”: movie openings
7. “an spoke on the radio”: radio was the major form of entertainment and news at the time; radio programs would interview celebrities before a movie premiere
8. “ringer”: an expert

#### Chapter Six

1. “sonofabitching”: similar to “damn”
2. “stew the b’ Jesus outta”: bother
3. “greased jack-pin”: a jackhammer
4. “blow it in”: waste it
5. “hoot in hell”: darn
6. “eatin’”: bothering