

Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### Identifying Idioms

- A. Each group will need one blue dictionary
- B. Idioms are phrases that are not defined word-for-word. Their definitions are found in the dictionary, but may not be listed by the first word of the phrase. Idioms are often listed under the key word in the phrase. Look up the definition of each of the following idioms, and write the definition on the blank.
- C. Circle the word in the idiom phrase which you use to look up the meaning.
- D. **EXAMPLE:** Find the entry word "skin." Read through this entry and locate the idiom "by the skin of one's teeth" at the end of the entry. The meaning is "by a very narrow margin." This has been written as the answer on the blank line. NOTE: Not all of the idioms will be given in dark type at the end of the entry. Some idioms will be given in light type throughout the definitions. Read carefully.

Example: by the skin of one's teeth: \_\_\_\_\_ by a very narrow margin

- 1. under the wire \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. have an ax to grind \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. have a bee in one's bonnet \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. burn the candle at both ends \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. walk on eggs \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. eat one's words \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. let sleeping dogs lie \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. on thin ice \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. in cold blood \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. pull one's leg \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. to stab in the back \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. get one's dander up \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. get one's goat \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. to let the cat out of the bag \_\_\_\_\_