



“All right,” said Sidney, “here’s another:

The worms **on** the **wall** wiggled.

What does that mean?”

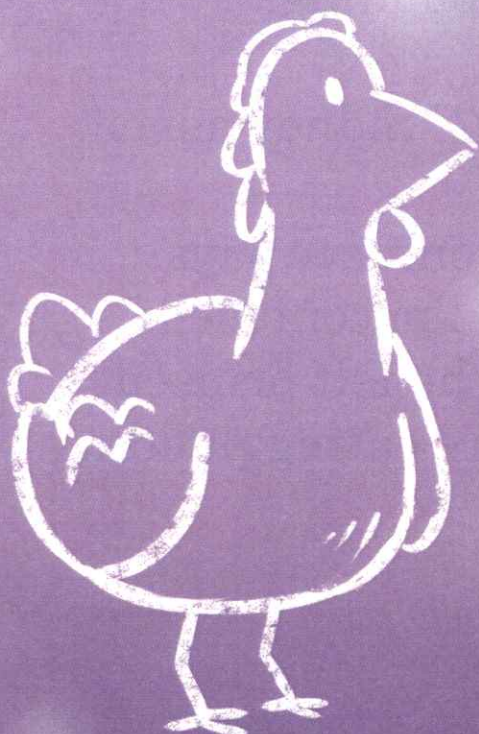
Poodle thought carefully this time.

“It means that the wall wiggled.”

Sidney stared **at him**. Silence.

“Wait,” Poodle said, “walls don’t wiggle,
but the sentence says ‘wall wiggled.’”

He tried to imagine walls wiggling.



“Here’s a clue,” said Sidney.

“The object **of** the **preposition**
is never the subject **of** the **sentence**.

It is never the subject **of** the **verb**.

It does not go **with** the **verb**.

In this **sentence**:

The **worms** **on** the **wall** **wiggled**.

the noun *worms* is the subject
of the **verb** *wiggled*. See? Worms wiggled.

The object **of** the **preposition** can’t be
the subject **of** the **sentence**.”

