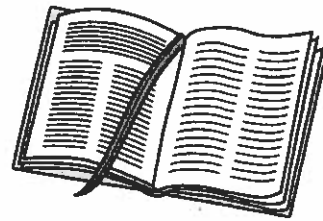


# UNDERSTANDING PROVERBS IN *Poor Richard's Almanack*

Benjamin Franklin, a respected colonist, was and still is known for his political and scientific work. He was also a writer and printer who published a yearly almanac called *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Franklin's yearly almanacs were popular with the colonists because they contained a variety of features, including calendars, weather predictions, and recipes.

## Analyze the Meaning of Proverbs

**DIRECTIONS:** Franklin also included proverbs in his almanac. A proverb is a short, commonly used saying that expresses a general truth. Below are some proverbs from *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Circle the statement below each proverb that best describes what the proverb means.



1. **Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.**  
You will benefit from good habits and hard work.  
You will be rich if you stick to your bedtime.
2. **Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power.**  
You will lose money if you try to buy wealth or power.  
Do not sacrifice your values for money or power.
3. **Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass.**  
Do not criticize others, because you have faults, too.  
You can do what you want to others if you protect yourself first.
4. **Make haste slowly.**  
Consider your actions carefully.  
If you hurry, you can get more done.
5. **Tart words make no friends: a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.**  
Speak kindly to others and you will have many friends.  
You will make many friends if you feed them honey.
6. **Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.**  
It's always better to leave work for the next day.  
Get your work done today so you will not have more work tomorrow.
7. **No gains without pains.**  
Life is hard.  
To get better at something, you must work hard at it.
8. **Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn.**  
It is a waste not to be eager for an education.  
People who are not smart are sad.