

PROVERBS

What are proverbs?

Proverbs are pieces of **ancient wisdom**, handed down from generation to generation.

Proverbs are popular sayings that contain **advice, lessons** and **shared values**.

China is well known for its proverbs, many of which come from legendary philosophers like **Confucius** and **Laozi**.

Many different countries have their own proverbs reflecting the culture of that place.



The Significance of Proverbs

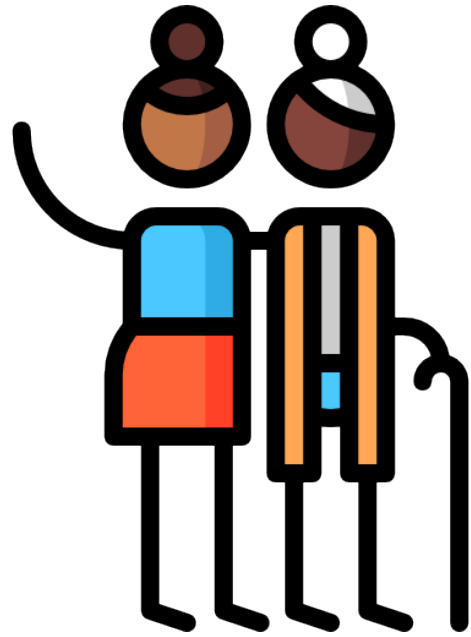
Collect proverbs from friends and family.

- Call your grandparents and other relatives and see if they know any proverbs. Find out how they learned the proverb. Who taught it to them? What do they think it means? Is it important to them? Why?

Do a search on the internet for proverbs from other countries.

Share your proverbs with the class or group and discuss:

- Which proverbs were common to most lists?
- Which proverbs were unique?
- Identify the language features of the proverbs.
- Are any of the proverbs significant to your family? In what way?
- Do any of the proverbs collected have cultural significance?



PROVERBS

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

The early bird gets the worm.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

A stitch in time saves nine.

A penny saved is a penny earned.

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

A drop of honey catches more flies than a hogshead of vinegar.

A fool and his money are soon parted.

Birds of a feather flock together.

Don't count your chickens before they've hatched.

One today is worth two tomorrows.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

Actions speak louder than words.

You can't judge a book by its cover.



Language Features of a Proverb

Alliteration

Words that start with the same sound or letter are used a lot in the sentence.

This example is a proverb from Scotland. Underline or circle where you can hear the alliteration .

Many a mickle (little) makes a muckle (a lot).

Your turn! Find some more proverbs that use alliteration and write them here:

Rhyme

Rhyming words sound similar. The ends of the words have are similar (like cAT and hAT).

This example is a proverb from America. Underline or circle the rhyming words.

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

Your turn! Find some more proverbs that use rhyme and write them here:

Repetition

The same word is repeated in the sentence.

This example is a proverb from Sweden. Underline or circle the repetition.

Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow.

Your turn! Find some more proverbs that use repetition and write them here:

Imagery

Descriptive language and words that appeals to the sense. You can see, hear, taste, touch, or feel the words!

This examples is a proverb from China. Underline the words that make you FEEL something.

The rain has gone, the sky brightens.

Your turn! Find some more proverbs that use imagery and write them here:

Writing Activities using Proverbs

Get Creative:

- Choose a favourite proverb and draw a picture or design a poster to illustrate it. Take a photograph of your picture / drawing or scan it into the computer and share with the class. When you're back at school, print out the pages and bind them together to make your own book of proverbs.
- Choose a proverb from your list and explain its meaning in relation to your own life. Maybe there was a time you **didn't judge a book by its cover** or that you **treated others the way you wanted to be treated**. What happened? Tell or write the story, and explain the lesson you learned.

Get Persuasive:

Consider the following proverb: ***Honesty is the best policy***

What does the proverb mean?

Do you agree or disagree with this proverb?

Let's rework the proverb into an essay question:

Is honesty always the best policy?

- Think about your point of view. Do you agree? Disagree? Can you see both sides?
- Brainstorm reasons or examples to support your point of view.
- Find the three strongest arguments and use the worksheets to organise your ideas.
- Remember, each idea will be a new paragraph in your essay. Start drafting your persuasive essay.

Persuasive Essay Planner



Topic: Is honesty always the best policy?

INTRODUCTION—WHAT DO YOU THINK?

REASON ONE

REASON TWO

REASON THREE

EVIDENCE / EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT
REASON ONE

EVIDENCE / EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT
REASON TWO

EVIDENCE / EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT
REASON THREE

CONCLUSION—SUMMARISE YOUR THREE REASONS AND RESTATE YOUR OPINION



WHY DO YOU THINK IT?

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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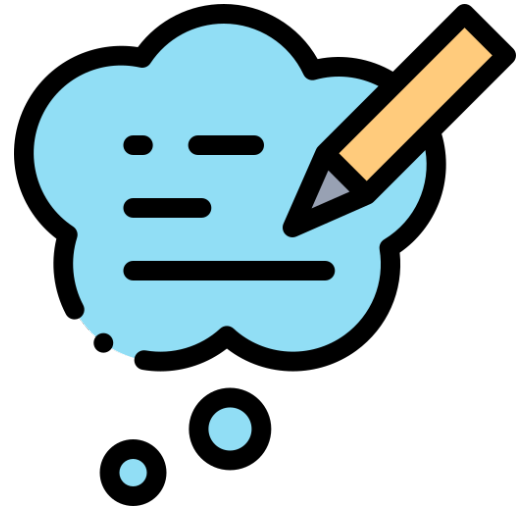
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In your essay you will need:

- An Introduction
 - Come up with an interesting, attention-grabbing opening sentence or HOOK.
 - Describe the issue.
 - State your opinion.
- Main Body:
 - Paragraph One
 - Reason One
 - Example or Evidence
 - Paragraph Two
 - Reason Two
 - Example or Evidence
 - Paragraph Three
 - Reason Three
 - Example or Evidence
- Conclusion
 - Summarise the three main reasons
 - Restate your opinion



Who was Confucius?

Confucius was a **famous thinker** in **ancient China**.

He lived thousands of years ago but his words still provide wisdom to people today.

Confucius focused on the importance of values as a way for people to live good lives.

This is a famous proverb from Confucius:

What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others

This proverb is also known as the 'Golden Rule'.

- Have you ever heard this proverb before?
- What do you think it means?
- Is this a proverb we should follow? Why?

Research some more proverbs by Confucius. Once you have read a few more think about:

- The **values** Confucius shares in these proverbs?
- What sort of **character traits** or **behaviours** do these proverbs ask us to present?

Make a list of these values, character traits and behaviours with your class; or create your own mind-map. I think words like COURAGE and KINDNESS will be on this list!

- Can you write your own proverb about being kind?
- Choose another word from the list and write a new proverb about it.
- Choose one of the proverbs you discovered in your research. What are the character traits associated with this proverb? You are going to write a story in which a character presents these traits in person. Maybe they do a good deed or help someone less fortunate than themselves. Share your story with your family and teacher.



Proverbs from China

If you don't enter the tiger's den, how will you get the tiger's cub?

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

A book holds a house of gold.

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

Dig the well before you are thirsty.

When one door closes another opens.

Everything has beauty but not everyone sees it.

Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.

Be the first to the field and the last to the couch.

When you drink the water, remember the spring.