

## **Anecdotes — a special kind of narrative**

Hiero of Syracuse once approached Archimedes seeking a solution to an unusual puzzle: Having commissioned an artisan to produce a crown, Hiero had given the man some gold - which he suspected had been mixed with silver, enabling the artisan to quietly pocket the difference. Was there, Hiero wondered, any way to put his suspicions to the test?

The answer occurred to Archimedes while he was bathing; he noticed that as he immersed himself in the tub, not only did the water level rise, but his apparent weight seemed to decrease. He is said to have leaped from the bath and run naked through the streets of Syracuse crying, "Eureka! Eureka!" (I have found it! I have found it!)

Archimedes compared the crown in water with a lump of gold that was the same weight. The crown was determined to not be entirely of gold and the artisan was punished.

**ASSIGNMENT DUE April 29, 2021**

**ANECDOTE ABSTRACTS**

Using the excerpt from The Lives of the Eminent Philosophers by Diogenes Laertius, choose and retell your favorite from each of the following categories: **1) a verbal anecdote 2) an action anecdote and 3) a mixed anecdote.** Each anecdote should be between 25 and 75 words.

**EXAMPLES**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ To the question “How can students make progress?” Aristotle quickly responded, “By pressing hard on those in front and not waiting for those behind.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ In 214 BC, a powerful Roman force attacked the city of Syracuse, the home of the famed mathematician and inventor Archimedes. To hold off the Roman legions, he devised one ingenious weapon after another, among them a catapult which could hurl a ton of stones some six hundred feet.

His most remarkable contraption, however, was brilliant in its sheer simplicity: Using an array of mirrors, Archimedes directed and concentrated the sun's rays onto the Roman ships and set them ablaze.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ When the Roman general Marcellus eventually captured Syracuse, he gave special orders that the life of the famous mathematician and engineer Archimedes should be spared.

A Roman soldier, sent to fetch the man, found him sitting quietly on the ground above the city, drawing geometrical figures in the sand. Thoroughly engrossed in his work, Archimedes gestured impatiently and muttered, "Don't disturb my circles." The soldier, thus enraged, drew his sword and promptly killed him.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have checked my final draft for sentence variety and have labeled and counted all my sentence openers.

\_\_\_\_\_ **“ly”**

\_\_\_\_\_ **preposition**

\_\_\_\_\_ **VSS**

\_\_\_\_\_ **“ing”**

\_\_\_\_\_ **clausal**

\_\_\_\_\_ **subject**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ed**