

Group work: 1) Give possible themes and then 2) match each of the following anecdotes with a proverb from your proverb collection that best fits it.

a. Napoleon instructed his secretary to leave his letters unopened for weeks. After that time, he observed with satisfaction how much of his correspondence no longer required an answer.

The best theme for and a matching proverb for this anecdote could be:

Theme _____ Proverb _____

b. The Greek philosopher Zeno caught his slave stealing and gave him a good beating. The slave, something of a philosopher himself, pleaded, "But it was fated that I should steal." "And that I should beat you," retorted Zeno.

The best theme for and a matching proverb for this anecdote could be:

Theme _____ Proverb _____

c. An admirer once asked Sir Isaac Newton, the discoverer of the law of gravity, how he had come to make discoveries in astronomy that went far beyond anything achieved by anyone before him. "By always thinking about them," replied Newton simply.

Theme _____ Proverb _____

d. A tourist spending the night in a small Vermont town joined a group of men sitting on the porch of the general store. After several vain attempts to start a conversation, he finally asked, "Is there a law against talking in this town?" "No law against it," answered one Vermonter, "but there's an understanding that no one's to speak unless he's sure he can improve on silence."

Theme _____ Proverb _____

e. A weaver set up his loom next to the house of the Italian painter Botticelli. The noise drove the artist nearly mad, and he protested bitterly, but his complaints went unheeded. So he balanced a huge rock on the roof of his house so that it hung over his neighbor's roof and threatened to come down at the slightest noise. Needless to say, the weaver came to terms.

Theme _____ Proverb _____

f. "Don't introduce me to him," said the English essayist, Charles Lamb, when a friend offered to present a man whom Lamb had for a long time disliked by hearsay. "I want to go on hating him, and I can't do that with a man I know."

Theme _____ Proverb _____

EXPLAINING & ARGUING ANECDOTES

a) **Paraphrase and b) explain the following anecdotes, using complete sentences:**

1. When he was praised by evil men, Antisthenes thought, "I must have done something wrong."

a.

b.

2. A student asked Thales, "How can we lead the best and most just life?" Thales responded, "By refraining from doing what we blame in others."

a.

b.

Give two reasons and an example for why you agree or disagree with the opinions in the following anecdotes:

1. One day Plato saw a young man playing dice and reprimanded him. "I am playing for a trifle only," protested the young man. Plato responded, "But the habit is not a trifle."

reason 1.

reason 2.

example:

2. When the philosopher Zeno tried to prove to Diogenes there was no such thing as motion, Diogenes got up and walked around.

reason 1.

reason 2.

example: