BEN FRANKLIN APHORISMS

You will draw a number to see which aphorism you will draw. 😊

1) Draw a picture that illustrates the aphorism
2) Explain the aphorism’s literal meaning
3) Explain the idea the aphorism expresses (What’s the real-life message or advice?)
4) Come up with a real world example that connects to the aphorism’s meaning.

1) Love your neighbor; yet don’t pull down your hedge.
2) Fish and visitors smell in three days.
3) Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
4) Beware of the young doctor and the old barber.
5) Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterward.
6) If your head is wax, don’t walk in the sun.
7) They who have nothing to trouble them will be troubled at nothing.
8) Life’s tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.
9) He that is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else.
10) He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.
11) What maintains one vice would bring up two children.
12) To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.
13) He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.
14) Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.
15) The strictest law sometimes becomes the severest injustice.
16) Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.
17) The way to be safe is never to be secure.
18) He that lives upon hope will die fasting.
19) Tart words make no friends; a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.
20) He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.
21) If you will not hear and obey reason she will surely rap your knuckles.
22) A truly great man will neither trample on a worm nor sneak to an emperor.
23) Many have quarreled about religion that never practiced it.
24) He that speaks much is much mistaken.
25) If a man could have half his wishes, he would double his troubles.
26) A plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees.
27) He that blows the coals in quarrels that he has nothing to do with has no right to complain if the sparks fly in his face.
28) At the working man’s house hunger looks in but dares not enter.
29) A good conscience is a continual Christmas.
30) An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Examples on back
A) Literal Meaning:
The proverb refers to the fact that when effectively shaping and molding hot iron, a blacksmith must act quickly before it cools down and hardens.

B) Idea Expressed:
We should act decisively and take advantage of favorable conditions or opportunities when they arise because they may not always be there.

C) Specific Real World Example:
During a particular week when your boss at Sonic is wowed by the fact you fixed the tater tot machine and numerous customers reported your excellent service--though you are really nervous--this could be the perfect moment to ask for a raise.

A) Literal Meaning:
The aphorism refers to the fact that the best way to cut down a large tree is not with one simple huge stroke. It’s about making many small, repeated, decisive strokes with an axe.

B) Idea Expressed:
Many small actions can be powerful enough to make a big change. Or... Though our strengths may be limited, if we are persistent, we can still solve a big problem or accomplish something grand.

C) Specific Real World Example:
If you are a slow or weak reader, you can still read a long, difficult text. You just need to take it one page, one passage, one sentence, or even one word at a time.

~Benjamin Franklin