

PROVERBS

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

A *PROVERB* IS A BRIEF STATEMENT THAT CONTAINS POPULAR WISDOM. READ THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF WELL-KNOWN PROVERBS. BELOW EACH *PROVERB* IS A RESTATEMENT OF WHAT THE *PROVERB* MEANS:

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

A person who has total control/power will use that power for his/her own benefit regardless of the impact on others. This proverb expresses the value of democracy and that our culture values structure of power that has checks and balances.

“All that glitters is not gold.”

Something that looks nice may not necessarily be valuable. Looks can be deceiving. This proverb expresses that our culture places value on character (moral and ethics) over superficiality.

“A rolling stone gathers no moss.”

Someone who does not settle in one place rarely prospers. This proverb expresses the value our culture places on focus and commitment.

“Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.”

Great things come from small beginnings. This proverb expresses the value our culture places on patience.

FIND THE FOLLOWING PROVERBS IN CHAPTER 1 OF *THINGS FALL APART*. WHAT VALUES OR LESSONS ARE CONVEYED THROUGH THE PROVERB? USE CONTEXTUAL CLUES FROM THE BOOK TO ASSIST YOU.

“He who brings kola brings life” (Achebe 6).

“...proverbs are the palm oil with which words are eaten” (Achebe 7).

“...the sun will shine on those who stand before it shines on those who kneel under them” (Achebe 7-8).

“...if a child washed his hands he could eat with kings” (Achebe 8).
