

Name _____

Date _____

Handout 9-A

Familiar Proverbs

Many ancient Middle Eastern cultures produced wisdom literature, including proverbs. A proverb is a short pithy saying that relates a general truth or piece of advice. Such sayings were one way the wisdom of one generation was passed on to another, and proverbs are as useful today as they were in biblical times. To get a sense of how proverbs function, examine examples of contemporary proverbs in the left-hand column and write the meaning of the proverb in the right-hand column. The first one is done for you.

Modern Proverb	Interpretation
Two wrongs don't make right.	<i>When someone does something bad to you, trying to do something bad to them will only make things worse.</i>
1. Better safe than sorry.	
2. A friend in need is a friend indeed.	
3. Look before you leap.	
4. Mind your own business.	
5. Actions speak louder than words.	
6. First things first.	
7. Honesty is the best policy.	

Handout 9-A continued

8. Too many cooks spoil the broth.	
9. Leave no stone unturned.	
10. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.	
11. Measure twice, cut once.	
12. An answer when mild turns away rage.	
13. Necessity is the mother of invention.	
14. Where there is no wood, the fire goes out.	
15. Shrewd is the one that has seen the calamity and proceeds to conceal himself.	
16.	
17.	