

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## African Proverbs

Proverbs are concise sayings that express a common human truth or experience. Proverbs are usually intended to convey accumulated cultural wisdom and experience, advising people about common human failings, such as greed, stupidity, procrastination, and gullibility. Proverbs are often witty and full of wordplay. They often are not meant to be taken literally, but instead meant to be interpreted figuratively.

Proverb # \_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

*Draw the literal meaning in the box:*



*Explain the figurative meaning (the life lesson expressed by the proverb):*

1. Rain beats a leopard's skin, but it does not wash out the spots
2. Only when you have crossed the river, can you say the crocodile has a lump on his snout.
3. Hunger is felt by a slave and hunger is felt by a king.
4. Rain does not fall on one roof alone.
5. What is said over the dead lion's body, could not be said to him alive.
6. No matter how long the night, the day is sure to come.
7. Restless feet may walk into a snake pit.
8. You cannot build a house for last year's summer.
9. The fool is thirsty in the midst of water.
10. As the wound inflames the finger, so thought inflames the mind.
11. One camel does not make fun of the other camel's hump.
12. When a needle falls into a deep well, many people will look into the well, but few will be ready to go down after it.
13. If you climb up a tree, you must climb down the same tree.
14. Quarrels end, but words once spoken never die.
15. He who is unable to dance says the yard is stony.
16. If you are building a house and a nail breaks, do you stop building, or do you change the nail?
17. Proverbs are the daughters of experience.
18. He who is being carried does not realize how far the town is.
19. When the mouse laughs at the cat, there is a hole nearby.
20. Don't be so much in love that you can't tell when the rain comes.
21. An eel that was not caught is as big as your thigh.
22. Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you.
23. When the man is away, the monkey eats up the maize and enters the hut.
24. Do not call to a dog with a whip in your hand.
25. Even an ant may harm an elephant.
26. He who does not mend his clothes will soon have none.

**List some other proverbs you know:**