



READING FOR MEANING

Let's Talk About Proverbs

Reading for meaning - Interactive ebook
Let's Talk About Proverbs (1974-1977)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE
POTOMAC

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INTRODUCTION

This ebook was created through 'Descartes Project', the platform was born in 1998 as a supporting tool for the teaching and learning of mathematics, but given its versatility and the incorporation of new functionalities, it attracted other disciplines such as Physics and Chemistry.

Years later, projects such as Pizarra Interactiva and @prende.mx emerged that offer digital content in the mother tongue (Spanish) and GEOgráfica as a contribution to learning world geography. Currently, the Descartes Digital Educational Network¹ offers the academic community a variety of content in disciplines such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, natural sciences, languages, English, strength of materials, statics, visual arts, administrative sciences, computational sciences and social and human sciences; that is, the Descartes Digital Educational Network extends its field of intervention to every discipline, including literature.

All images presented were obtained from the [Envato repository](#) licensed by I.U.Pascual Bravo. Regarding the own and other interactive scenes, these were designed with DescartesJS or, failing that, they are adjustments of the templates available in the Descartes project.²

[The DescartesJS tool](#) is characterized by an innate interactivity, by allowing representations of two and three-dimensional objects, by managing text expressions and formulas, by integrating multimedia objects such as images, audios and videos, by having the possibility of reflecting specific cases and also promote the conceptualization of tasks and procedures through the use of random seeds and numerical, graphic and text controls, and with them be able to approach the evaluation automatically, both corrective and formative. With DescartesJS it is possible to design and develop educational objects that promote meaningful learning, enabling the desired construction of knowledge.

¹ The Descartes Project <https://proyectodescartes.org>

² Templates <https://proyectodescartes.org/plantillas/index.htm>

HOW TO USE

Some recommendations to make your learning experience through this ebook dynamic and fun:

This icon allows you to watch Professor Ginger Leopoldo narrating the proverb.



This icon allows you to watch Professor Stephan Malinowski narrating the proverb.

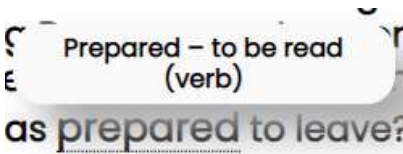


This icon activates a simple training activity so that you can validate yourself if you have understood the context of each proverb.

Use this icon to open interactive activity in full screen window.



This icons allow you to hear (MP3 audio version) the narration of the proverb in the voices of professors Leopoldo or Malinowski.



Some words are underlined and correspond to the glossary of the ebook and allows you to expand its meaning.

PREFACE



The collection of short introductory stories were created to connect local 'proverbs or sayings' with English language learning.

These proverbial stories were written because the children could study and learn more about their cultural heritage in written form and because of the need for hard copy printed library materials for Caribbean children to read and to be able to answer questions in class or at home. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, an independent agency for the United States Government, I was assigned to teach English in a classroom setting for two years. During that period, it became clear that it would be necessary to raise funds to purchase books from the local publishing house in Trinidad.

However, this fell short of my expectations since there were hundreds of children and teenagers who never 'checked out a book' from the library. Two years later, with funds raised locally and donations from abroad, the school library was refurbished. With the generous support from the Cleveland Public Library, approximately 17,000 classroom books were shipped prepaid to the island nation which launched a modified American-British style school library system to include several Primary schools, one Junior Secondary School and 'a paid college preparatory school.'

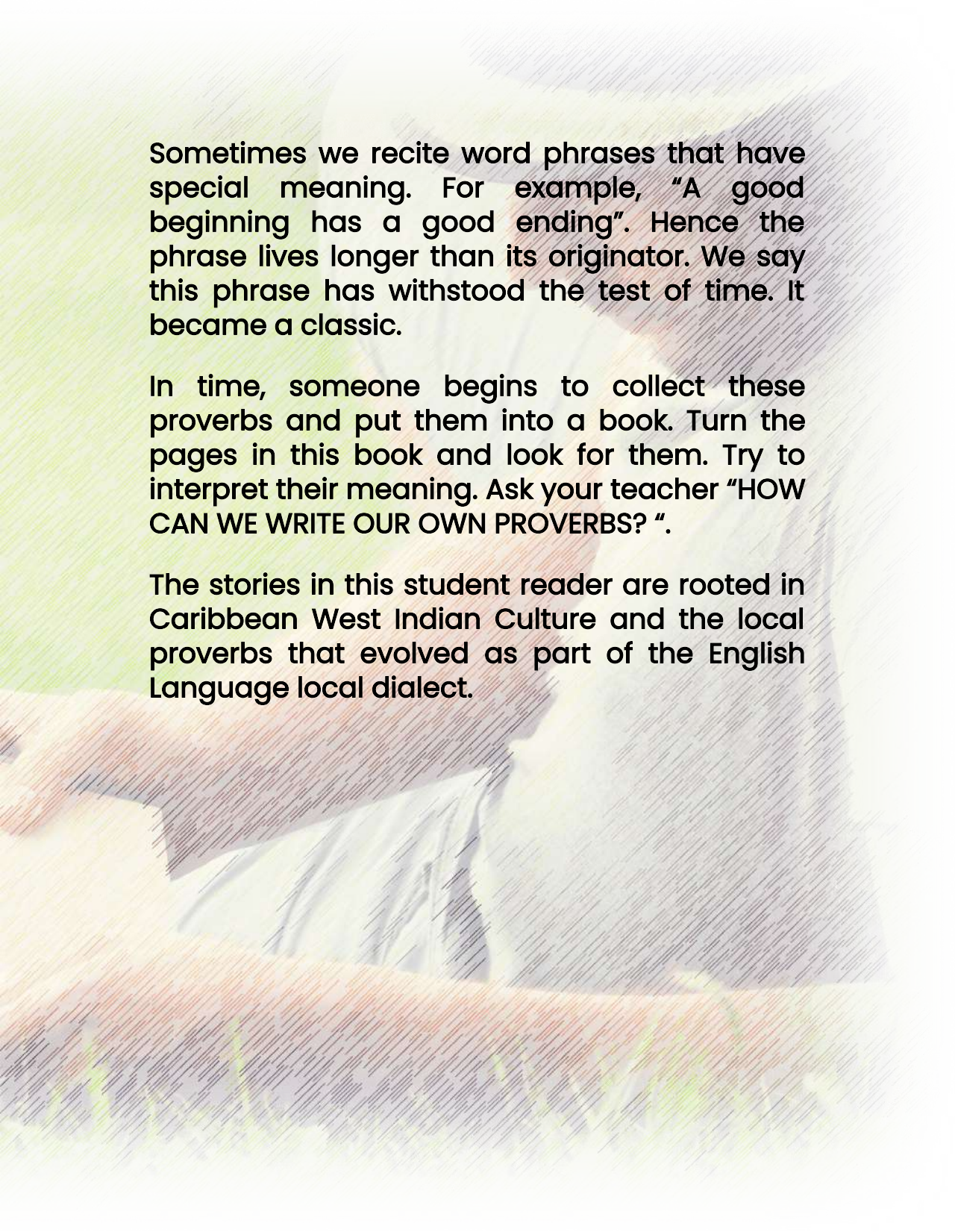
My tour of duty was extended for one additional year to assist in training new volunteers. The regional Peace Corps agency provided a school librarian and another teacher. Only after hearing accounts from teachers and reading stories about local customs, that I felt qualified to write about these local proverbs and of course acquired some skill in refurbishing an unfinished library building with chairs, tables and bookshelves.

It was truly a labor of love.

Stephan Malinowski

WHAT IS A PROVERB ANYHOW?





Sometimes we recite word phrases that have special meaning. For example, "A good beginning has a good ending". Hence the phrase lives longer than its originator. We say this phrase has withstood the test of time. It became a classic.

In time, someone begins to collect these proverbs and put them into a book. Turn the pages in this book and look for them. Try to interpret their meaning. Ask your teacher "HOW CAN WE WRITE OUR OWN PROVERBS? ".

The stories in this student reader are rooted in Caribbean West Indian Culture and the local proverbs that evolved as part of the English Language local dialect.

ALL YOUR LABOUR GONE IN MAXWELL'S POND



One day a man was walking along the road carrying a bag full of frogs. He was going to sell them at the market. Along the way he saw a pond and decided to stop for a drink of water. When he bent over to drink, the frogs dropped into the pond from a hole in the bag.

"Wulloss", said the man, "all my labour gone in Maxwell's Pond." The name of that pond later became part of a Barbadian proverb which is still very popular today.



WHAT IN THE OLD GOAT COME OUT IN THE KIDDY



Mr. Boatswain was a carpenter who lived with his wife and son, David, on Carriacou. David was seven years old when he started following his father to the workshop every day. Mr. Boatswain was pleased to see that his son was interested in carpentry.

As David grew older, his father taught him how to use the tools and to help with the work. David was glad to help clean the shop after work and put the tools away in their proper place.

'A good carpenter uses the best tools in a clean shop,' said Mr. Boatswain, "Someday you may have a shop of your own."

HIGH WIND KNOWS WHERE OLD HOUSE STANDS



On my way home from school, I passed by an old house. Perhaps it is better to say that the house has aged from the weather. The foundation is made of concrete, its walls constructed of wood, with a tin roof.

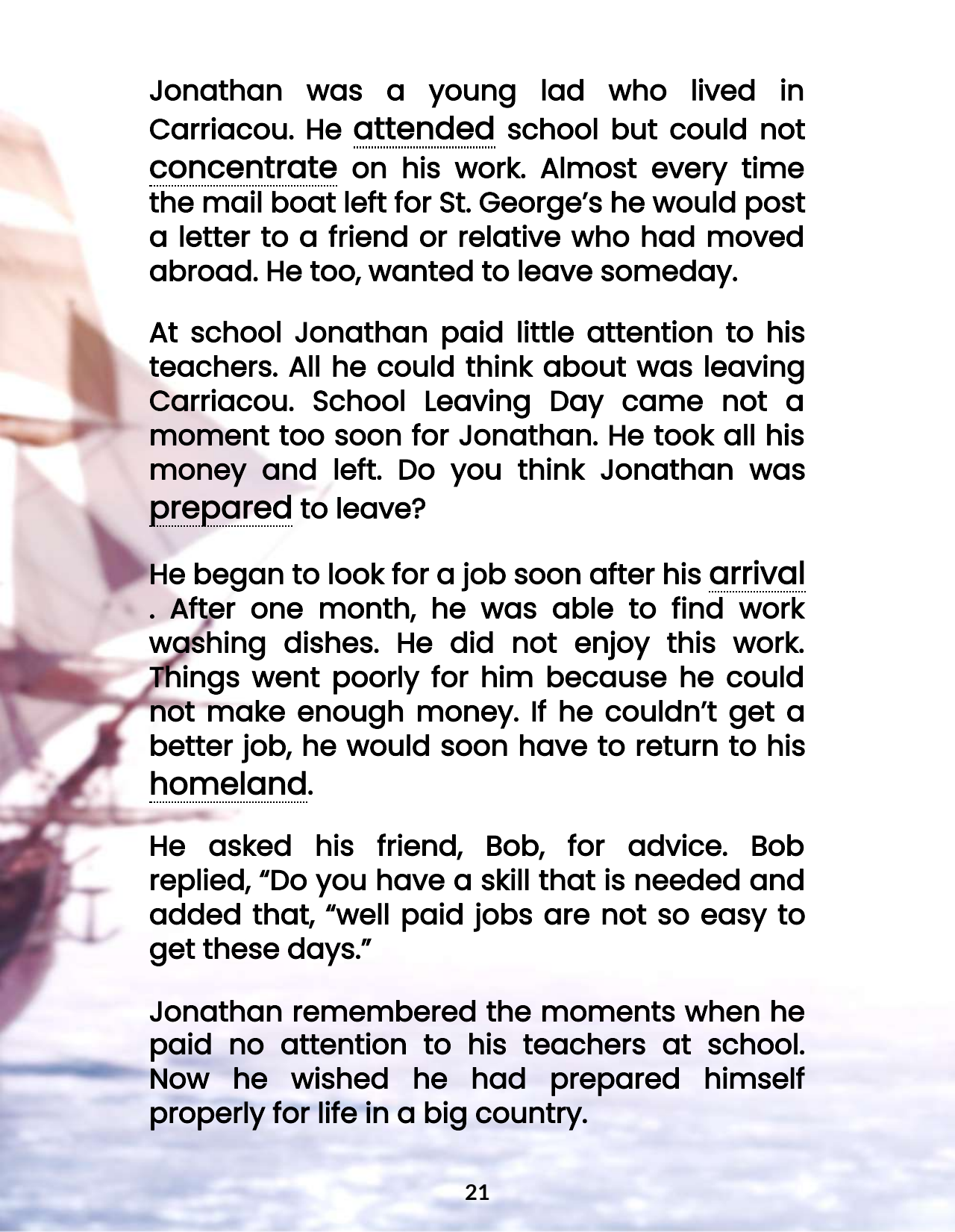
The outside walls have no paint and the shutters seem to hang like an old shirt. If you stand at the doorway, you can smell the stale air. Finally, if you look closely, you'll know that the wood is rotting away.

The grass in the yard has grown over the footpath and the rain gutters leak. A gentle breeze carries the spider's web across the room. The owners moved away years ago. Do you think a high wind would know this house?



WHEN RICHES LEAVE YOU; LEARNING STILL STAND YOUR FRIEND





Jonathan was a young lad who lived in Carriacou. He attended school but could not concentrate on his work. Almost every time the mail boat left for St. George's he would post a letter to a friend or relative who had moved abroad. He too, wanted to leave someday.

At school Jonathan paid little attention to his teachers. All he could think about was leaving Carriacou. School Leaving Day came not a moment too soon for Jonathan. He took all his money and left. Do you think Jonathan was prepared to leave?

He began to look for a job soon after his arrival. After one month, he was able to find work washing dishes. He did not enjoy this work. Things went poorly for him because he could not make enough money. If he couldn't get a better job, he would soon have to return to his homeland.

He asked his friend, Bob, for advice. Bob replied, "Do you have a skill that is needed and added that, "well paid jobs are not so easy to get these days."

Jonathan remembered the moments when he paid no attention to his teachers at school. Now he wished he had prepared himself properly for life in a big country.

HOME DRUM BEATS FIRST



Do you sometimes wonder what it would be like to live in a foreign land? There are many challenges to meet and many places to see. This is the story of James Thomas.

James went abroad to make a new life. He found a good job. In time he made some fine friends. James was happy.

One night James met some fellow countrymen at a fete. They laughed and joked about their local customs and talked about old times at home. After the fete, James stopped to visit his friend, Peter. They talked for awhile.

"I miss home", said James, "the fete tonight brought back old memories".

"Be patient," said Peter. "Wait until your vacation and then go visit your family."

"That's a good idea", said James. "it will give me time to save money for the trip".

"Yes", said Peter, "the sound of music begins at home".



IF GREEDY WILL WAIT, HOT WILL COOL



A photograph of a person's hand and arm resting on a dark, textured surface, possibly a car seat or a piece of fabric. The hand is positioned in the lower left corner, with the fingers slightly curled. The arm extends towards the center of the frame. The background is a warm, orange-brown gradient.

There were two Carriacouans, George and Sam, who had just bought a new car together. Like most car owners in Carriacou, they began to drive a taxi.

Now George was an ambitious fellow. Sam took things cool and did not rush through life. Then one day George said to Sam, "In one year we could make enough money to repay our debt."

"You're eating a hot roti", replied Sam.

What do you mean by that George asked?

"If you wait until the hot roti cools off, you would enjoy your meal", answered Sam.

"You mean that I can enjoy my work and earn money" asked George.

"Exactly!" replied Sam.

IF WISHES WERE HORSES THEN BEGGARS MIGHT RIDE



One day a shepherd boy went to the mountains to tend his flock. He sat on a rock to rest. Suddenly a little man lept out from behind a tree and said to the shepherd boy, "Think well, think fast; make a wish that will last!"

The boy had never seen such a creature before. He thought for awhile, saying to himself, "Shall I ask for a long life, prosperity or money". The poor lad was uncertain".

Then he remembered his lost sheep and began to worry about them.

"I cannot waste time in foolishness," said the boy, "you have caused me delay in finding my sheep."

"What! Cried the little man. "You do not want a wish

"I am happy to be alive," answered the boy, Should I ask for less A smile crossed the little man's face.

"You are a wise person," voiced the little man. "Even I could not grant such a precious gift"

MANY WAYS TO GO BUT ONLY ONE TO COME



Think of this proverb as a riddle. You must decide .

What is measured like a temperature,
lies within a circle,

and shows us “many ways to go?”

Now, if you were a sailor, the answer would seem obvious .

It is a compass. It is an instrument that looks like a clock but shows direction. Sailors use a similar instrument to sail by.

A clock tells us an interesting story, too. It measures time. This tells the sailor how long he travels. Once the sailor chooses which way to go, only time will tell which is the “only one to come”.



STEPHAN, WHAT WERE YOU LIKE WHEN YOU WERE 50?



At age 50, I was an avid tennis and recreational baseball player (PONCE de Leon League) while employed with the federal service in Washington DC and my wife was working for local photo studio in Rockville Md.

During this period I enjoyed the role of house captain for several projects at the National Christmas in April program in Montgomery County Maryland Sponsored by a local Parish. Serving as a volunteer afforded the the opportunity at developing leadership, mentoring and fund raising skills. Ideally, One day each year was set aside for supervision of volunteers and purchasing building materials for home reconstruction.

I continue to be just as active at age seventy one (March 12,2021) and currently working as an adjunct English as a Second Language instructor at the University of the Potomac in Washington DC preparing international students for language certification. A goodwill ambassador is the Fifth pillar of a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (1974-77). Currently I'm working on an Electronic Book called 'Reading for Meaning' that I wrote and saved a hardcopy since 1974-77. Read the preface for more details after it's website publication. I enjoy writing stories and hope to continue writing short stories.

Stephan Malinowski

GLOSSARY

Click on each word to go to the proverb in which it is mentioned.

- [Aged](#): having lived long (adj)
- [Ambitious](#): strongly desirous of something (adj)
- [Arrival](#): come to a place, end of a journey (noun)
- [Attended](#): to take part in, to be part of (verb)
- [Bent](#): to lean over (verb)
- [Carpenter](#): work man who makes the wooden parts of a building (noun).
- [Carpentry](#): work of a carpenter's nature (noun).
- [Challenges](#): to solve new problem (noun)
- [Concentrate](#): to pay attention (verb)
- [Constructed](#): built out of something (verb)
- [Custom](#): old tradition, old way (noun)
- [Debt](#): owning money (noun)
- [Decide](#): to settle a question (verb)
- [Decided](#): choose to do something (verb)

- Exactly: free from wrong meaning (adj)
- Homeland: place of birth (noun)
- Interested: like to know an idea (adj)
- Obvious: easily seen or understood (adj)
- Patient: waiting calmly (adj)
- Popular: well liked (adj)
- Precious: something having great value (adj)
- Prepared: to be read (verb)
- Proper: what is right or fitting (adj)
- Prosperity: good fortune: state of being, successful (noun)
- Proverb: a wise saying (noun)
- Riddle: an idea not so easily seen or understood (noun)
- Similar: almost the same as (adj)
- Stale: not fresh (adj)
- Tend: watch over, take care of (verb)
- Uncertain: not sure of something (adj)

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