

NAME:
DATE:
CLASS:

Literary Analysis: Ben Franklin's Autobiography

An **autobiography** is a person's written account of his or her own life. Although subjective, it offers valuable insight into the author's personality, thoughts, and feelings.

DIRECTIONS: Read these passages from Ben Franklin's The Autobiography. Then, on the lines provided, sum up what they reveal about Franklin's attitudes and personality.

1. ***"As I knew, or thought I knew, what was right or wrong, I did not see why I might not always do the one and avoid the other."***

2. ***"While my care was employed in guarding against one fault, I was often surprised by another."***

3. ***"I determined to give a week's strict attention to each of the virtues successively."***

4. ***"I was surprised to find myself so much fuller of faults than I imagined."***

5. ***"The man came every now and then from the wheel to see how the work went on, and at length would take his ax as it was, without further grinding. 'No,' said the smith, 'turn on, turn on; we shall have it bright by and by; as yet, it is only speckled.' 'Yes,' said the man, 'but I think I like a speckled ax best.'"***

6. ***". . . a perfect character might be attended with the inconvenience of being envied and hated; and that a benevolent man should allow a few faults in himself, to keep his friends in countenance."***

NAME:

ENRICHMENT 2B

DATE:

Aphorisms of Franklin from *Poor Richard's Almanack*

Franklin's greatest business accomplishment came from the publication of *Poor Richard's Almanack*. On December 19, 1732 Franklin published his first almanac under the pseudonym of Richard Saunders. The almanac was published for the year of 1733 and was published once a year for the next 25 years (26 total years). It contained all sorts of interesting information such as the calendar, weather predictions, sayings, poems, and demographics. It also included recipes, trivia, advice, aphorisms, and proverbs about industry and frugality. Franklin considered it a vehicle of instruction for common people who could not afford books, a literature for the masses. Almanacs were the most read secular books in the colonies.

An **aphorism** (sometimes called proverb or maxim) is a short, pointed statement that expresses a wise or clever observation about human experience.

DIRECTIONS: *Below are five aphorisms written by Benjamin Franklin. Please read them and then, in your own words, explain what they mean.*

1. ***Wise men don't need advice; fools don't take it.***

2. ***Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame.***

3. ***If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.***

4. ***When the well is dry, you know the value of water.***

5. ***A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.***

NAME:

DATE:

Career Ready Enrichment

PART I. DIRECTIONS: Each career in the following table was held at one time by Benjamin Franklin. Decide which of Franklin's thirteen virtues could help a person succeed in each career. Write the number of the virtue under each career.

- 1. Temperance: Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.
2. Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.
3. Order: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.
4. Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.
5. Frugality: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself, i.e., waste nothing.
6. Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.
7. Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.
8. Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.
9. Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
10. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
11. Tranquillity: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
12. Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

Table with 6 columns: WRITER, PRINTER, INVENTOR, SCIENTIST, POLITICIAN, DIPLOMAT. The table is currently empty.

PART II. DIRECTIONS: DIRECTIONS: Choose a potential career for the 21st century. On the lines below, determine the virtues that apply to that career, and explain how they would be beneficial in the workplace. THEN identify the additional skills and abilities a person today would need to succeed in that field.

Multiple horizontal lines provided for writing answers to Part II.