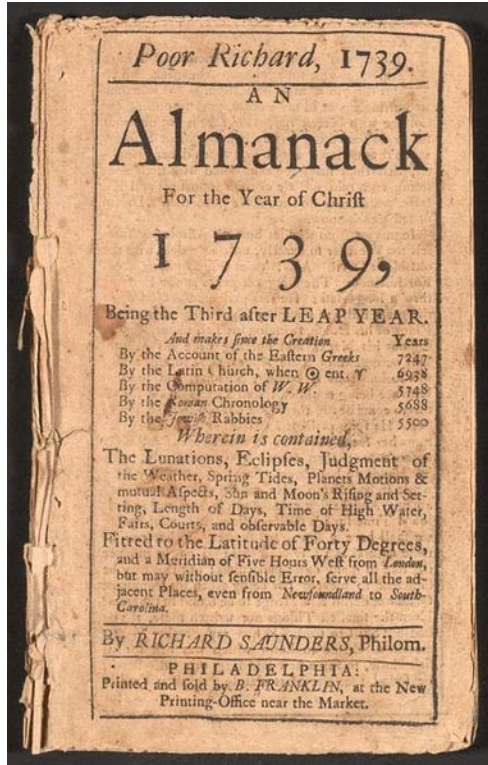


Poor Richard's Almanack



Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanack* in 1733. An annual publication, the *Almanack* offered readers information necessary to daily life such as farming tips, household hints, recipes, and weather forecasts. It also offered astrological forecasts, demographics, poems, puzzles, games, and clever sayings that encouraged a moral life and clean living.

In the excerpts below, you will see that he offers both practical and philosophical advice. His goal was to provide readers with information that would help them live successful as well as good lives. As you read the excerpts, what do you think he is trying to tell the readers?

We complain sometimes of hard Winters in this Country; but our Winters will appear as Summers, when compar'd with those that some of our Countrymen undergo in the most Northern British

Colony on this Continent, which is that upon Churchill River, in Hudson's Bay (1748).

Beef, Pork, Mutton, and Venison, kill'd in the Beginning of the Winter, are preserved by the Frost for 6 or 7 Months, entirely free from Putrefaction. Likewise Geese, Partridges, and other Fowls, kill'd at the same Time, and kept with their Feathers on and Guts in, are preserv'd by the Frost, and prove good Eating. All Kinds of Fish are preserv'd in the same Manner. (1748)

What an admirable Invention is Writing, by which a Man may communicate his Mind without opening his Mouth, and at 1000 Leagues Distance, and even to future Ages, only by the Help of 22 Letters, which may be joined 5852616738497664000 Ways, and will express all Things in a very narrow Compass. 'Tis a Pity this excellent Art has not preserved the Name and Memory of its Inventor. (1750)

If we lose our Money, it gives us some Concern. If we are cheated or robb'd of it, we are angry: But Money lost may be found; what we are robb'd of may be restored: The

Treasure of Time once lost, can never be recovered; yet we squander it as tho' 'twere nothing worth, or we had no Use for it. (1751)

How to secure Houses, &c. from LIGHTNING.

It has pleased God in his Goodness to Mankind, at length to discover to them the Means of securing their Habitations and other Buildings from Mischief by Thunder and Lightning. The Method is this: Provide a small Iron Rod (it may be made of the Rod-iron used by the Nailers) but of such a Length, that one End being three or four Feet in the moist Ground, the other may be six or eight Feet above the highest Part of the Building. To the upper End of the Rod fasten about a Foot of Brass Wire, the Size of a common Knitting-needle, sharpened to a fine Point; the Rod may be secured to the House by a few small Staples. If the House or Barn be long, there may be a Rod and Point at each End, and a middling Wire along the Ridge from one to the other. A House thus furnished will not be damaged by Lightning, it being attracted by the Points, and passing thro the Metal into the Ground without hurting any Thing. Vessels also, having a sharp pointed Rod fix'd on the Top of their Masts, with a Wire from the Foot of the Rod reaching down, round one of the Shrouds, to the Water, will not be hurt by Lightning. (1753)

When you incline to have new Cloaths, look first well over the old Ones, and see if you cannot shift with them another Year, either by Scouring, Mending, or even Patching if necessary. Remember a Patch on your Coat, and Money in your Pocket, is better and more creditable than a Writ on your Back, and no Money to take it off. (1756)

Franklin often offered advice via short sayings, which were easy to remember. The sayings below are examples of his wit and wisdom. As you read them, think about what they mean. Are they still applicable to life today? Do they remind you of any expressions that you hear today?

- ❖ *Humility make great men twice honourable (1735)*
- ❖ *Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead. (1735)*
- ❖ *Fish and visitors stink in 3 days (1736)*
- ❖ *Time is an herb that cures all Diseases (1738)*
- ❖ *Search others for their virtues, thy self for thy vices. (1738)*
- ❖ *Wish not so much to live long as to live well. (1738)*
- ❖ *If thou wouldst live long, live well; for Folly and Wickedness shorten Life. (1739)*

- ❖ You will be careful, if you are wise; How you touch Men's Religion, or Credit, or Eyes. (1742)
 - ❖ *Those who are fear'd, are hated* (1744)
 - ❖ *No gains without pains.* (1745)
 - ❖ *He's a Fool that cannot conceal his Wisdom* (1745)
- ❖ *He that's content, hath enough; He that complains, has too much.* (1758)

Now that you're familiar with some of Franklin's wit and wisdom, it's time to share some of your own. What information might you want to share with other students? With brothers or sisters? With friends, family, or neighbors?

You want to create a clever Franklin-like expression that offers advice that will help someone live a good life.

Think about what you do in your own life -- or what you want to do. Do you exercise or eat well? Do you make sure that you study? Are you nice to people, helping them when they need help?

Another way to approach this is to think about what you would like to see people do, such as help those less fortunate, donate to charities, respect other people, or stop bullying.

Use the space below and the back of this page to brainstorm a few ideas. Once you come up with a saying, write it on the meme generator.

1734/ 1735 excerpts: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0001>
 1736: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0019>
 1738: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0035>
 1739: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0046>
 1741: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0066>
 1742: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0080>
 1745: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-03-02-0001>
 1744: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-02-02-0100>
 1748: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-03-02-0103>
 1750 <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-03-02-0176>
 1751 <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-04-02-0029>
 1753 <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-04-02-0148>
 1756 <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-06-02-0136>
 1758: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-07-02-0146>