







Monday

22°C 

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
 Downpour	 Lightning	 Sun	 Rain	 Cloud	 Sun

Text Type: Web page  
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins

Let's Think! 

1. What proverbs do you know?
2. Do you usually rely on proverbs in making decisions?

# Weather Proverbs through Stories

## CORNER FOR LANGUAGE LOVERS

### [1] What are Proverbs?

Proverbs are short pithy sentences that express truths, and therefore are often used by ordinary folks as pieces of advice. Condensed from experience or observation, they are handed down from generation to generation due to the wisdom they impart.



[2] Another submission from one of our readers! This time, a young storyteller trying to come up with a way to explain science to his little brother sent us some of his own explanations of proverbs about the weather.

### [3] *When dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass.*

Mr Dew is that big, round water droplet that is sometimes seen lying on a leaf of grass, or hanging on its edge, almost falling. He is shy and won't be seen after the sun is up. He likes to visit the grass while he is cooling himself at night. While the two talk, the ground would be giving out heat stored during the day, which would finally fly up to the sky. On the days when the weather is humid, however, Mr Dew's relatives, water molecules, would hide naughtily in the air and pass the heat to the grass. Mr Dew dislikes heat so he won't appear if the temperature isn't low enough. Therefore, if you come across the two dear friends talking to each other, be assured that it'll be a good dry day without rain.

### [4] *If the clouds move against the wind, rain will follow.*

Mr Cloud and Ms Wind are good friends, aren't they? They seem to always travel in the same direction. But sometimes, too, they have disagreements and they would ignore each other when they meet in the sky. Ms Wind would show her anger by moving in the opposite direction of Mr Cloud's path. And Mr Cloud would not give in (how stubborn!) and would walk his way all the same. Scientists, who like to name everything they observe, call this 'wind shear'. They conclude that the wind directions in the upper and lower parts of the atmosphere are different when this happens. This makes rain and storms more probable. How much trouble this pair of friends can bring us!

### More to Take Away

Air molecules are what makes up the atmosphere and their interaction with sunlight affects the way we perceive the colour of the sky. As sunlight reaches the atmosphere, it is scattered in all directions by air molecules. Since they are more effective at scattering lights with shorter wavelengths, the colours blue and violet are therefore more scattered and visible than other colours in the sky. The sky appears blue for this reason, and also because we are more receptive to blueness.

[5] *The moon, his face be red, of water he speaks.*

There is no one with dramatic mood swings like Mr Moon. In him, they come quickly and go just as quickly. And all because of the weather! No need to worry, however: If he is unstable, at least he shows all his emotions on the face. By its colour you will easily know how he feels.



[6] Most of the time, when he is feeling all right, he just has his usual expression on his face, looking yellow and peaceful. When the surrounding air gets wet, however, he will get so exasperated that his face would redden gradually. Sometimes, the change can be so subtle that an insensitive person would not even notice it. The wetter it gets, the redder his face will become.

[7] You are wrong if you think he is difficult to please. In fact, it is as easy to do that as to enrage him. Just keep the surroundings dry and free of water molecules. Soon enough, his face will turn white and bright again. He is also a reliable expert when it comes to predicting rain. After all, who foretells rain better than someone who can feel the water molecules gathering around him so strongly? His prediction has mostly been correct since people learnt how to read his face.

[8] Joke of the Day

Hazel: Daisy, I feel so bad about how my boyfriend treated me!

Daisy: Why? What did he do?

Hazel: He told me he would go to the cinema with me, come rain or shine.

Daisy: That was very sweet! What was the problem?

Hazel: It's been cloudy for the whole week!

~650 words

STEAM

When the sun is on the horizon at dusk, the blue and violet lights have to travel through a thick atmosphere to enter our eyes. Although they are still scattering in the air, by the time they reach our eyes, the colours with longer wavelengths like red, orange and yellow take over. Eventually, the colours blue and violet are scattered out and fade away.

Looking into Grammar

The present perfect tense is often used with 'for' or 'since', as it is used to describe events that started in the past but continue to the present. 'For' is used to talk about the event's duration, while 'since' is used to talk about when it started.

- ✓ Karl has slept **for three hours** (✗ in three hours).
- ✓ The dog has been barking **since 10 am** (✗ at 10 am).

🔍 Underline a sentence in which the present perfect tense is used with 'for' in paragraph 8.

## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the web page. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. In paragraph 3, 'the two' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the dew and the grass
  - B. the leaves of grass
  - C. the ground and the grass
  - D. the ground and the ground's heat
2. Which of the following may be TRUE if dew appears on leaves?
- I. It is a dry night.
  - II. The ground is not giving out heat.
  - III. The grass is absorbing heat from the air.
  - IV. It is unlikely to rain.
- A. I and IV
  - B. II and III
  - C. I, II and III
  - D. none of the above
3. Which of the following may NOT be true based on the proverbs?
- A. Dew mostly appears on cold, dry nights.
  - B. Dew cannot be seen in winter.
  - C. Clouds do not always go in the same direction as the wind.
  - D. The moon can be red in colour sometimes.
4. The writer thinks that Mr Cloud and Ms Wind go in the same direction \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. always
  - B. most of the time
  - C. sometimes
  - D. on windy days only
5. The way Mr Cloud deals with Ms Wind's anger can be described as \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. indirect and rude
  - B. friendly and peaceful
  - C. annoying and childish
  - D. passive and indifferent
6. Mr Moon appears red when \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a shower is over
  - B. a shower is soon over
  - C. there are many water molecules in the air
  - D. there are few water molecules in the air
7. Which of the following is TRUE about the three proverbs?
- A. They are understood by language lovers.
  - B. They were not known by people in the past.
  - C. They actually deal with science.
  - D. They came from folklores and stories.



Strategy

4 Why does the writer include this piece of information to explain the proverb?



Strategy

7 Think about what the three proverbs have in common.



Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

## Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the web page.  
For question 1, answer in complete sentences.

1 Pay attention to the definition of 'proverb'.



1. Name TWO qualities that proverbs in general should not have.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_  
(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Circle the literary device used by the young storyteller in paragraphs 3-7.

Exaggeration / Repetition / Onomatopoeia / Personification

3 Think about what Mr Moon's mood swings may be like.



3. Which of the following may Mr Moon say when he senses the atmosphere's moisture?

- A. 'Eww! Here it comes again!'       B. 'Let me take a look at the dewes.'  
 C. 'I can't breathe. Help!'       D. 'I've been waiting for it for ages!'

4. Look for words in the web page to match the definitions below.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 1-3)      (*adj.*) cleverly short and to the point  
(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4-6)      (*adj.*) not obvious or noticeable  
(iii) \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 6-8)      (*v.*) to irritate someone greatly

5. In each line, there is a wrong word. Underline it and write a word that expresses the correct idea in the right-hand column.

- (i) 'Come rain or shine' is an idiom which means 'all the way'.      time  
(ii) Hazel seems to have understood her boyfriend. She thought \_\_\_\_\_  
(iii) that he would go with her only when it is cloudy or when \_\_\_\_\_  
(iv) it rains. That's why it's ended up turning into a proverb.      \_\_\_\_\_

**DSE**

Level Up



Q2 Literary devices are artistic techniques through which to convey a figurative or special meaning. Identify THREE literary devices used in the following sentences:

*Bang! Bang! The sounds of fierce gunshots whistled through the empty air. The poor animals left their homeland in panic.*

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of some of the natural phenomena from the word box.

double rainbow

meteor shower

mirage

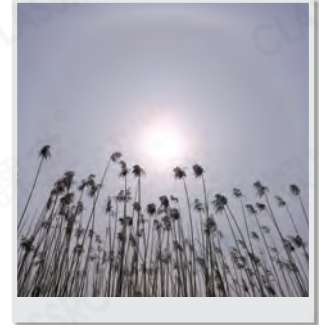
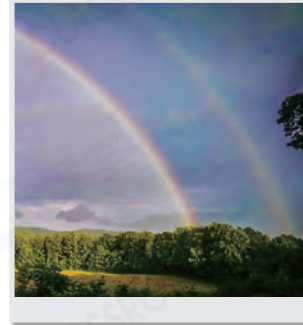
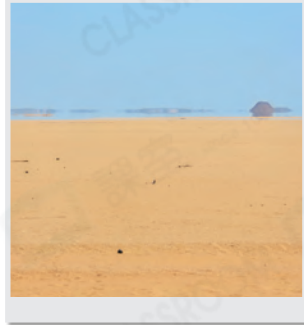
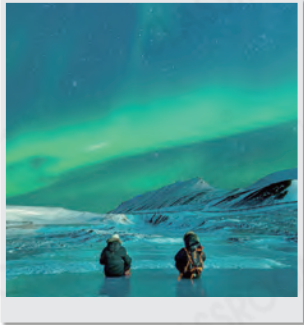
dust storm

blizzard

halo

aurora

eclipse

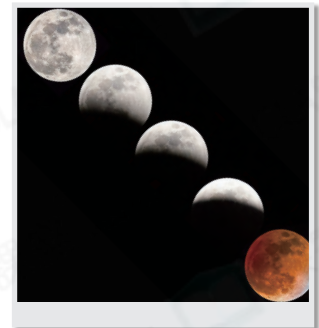
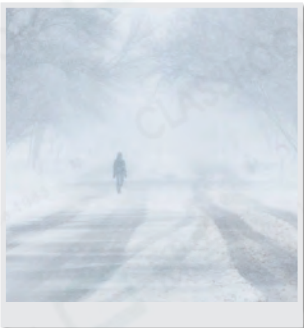


1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Word Craft

An **idiom** is a phrase whose intended meaning, usually metaphoric, is different from its literal meaning.

**e.g.** bite the bullet (=to start to deal with an unpleasant or difficult situation that is inevitable)

A **proverb** is a fixed, short sentence that expresses a truth and intends to teach and to enlighten.

**e.g.** You reap what you sow. (= One is destined to face up to the consequences of one's actions.)

### Let's Discuss!

1. Do you find proverbs interesting or insightful? Elaborate on your answer.
2. Do you agree that some proverbs can be useful in assisting us in making important decisions?

## Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the messages below with the natural phenomena introduced on the previous page.



Jack: I've watched a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ once: it's jaw-dropping. You can't believe what a beautiful picture the night sky will become when hundreds of stars are falling like raindrops across it. The next one will be in October; would you like to come and watch it with me?



Iris: My family and I visited the Arctic some time ago and saw an (2) \_\_\_\_\_ while we were there. It was just like a light show, though a natural one. My brother, being more imaginative, said it looked like a green snake moving around the sky. For once, I seemed to understand what it means to say that nature works in mysterious ways.



Mariah: I'm just back from the Sahara. One day, while I was still there, I thought I saw some tall buildings in front. As I walked closer for a better look, I realised they didn't even exist—the whole image was just a (3) \_\_\_\_\_. After this oddly dreamy experience, we encountered a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ while walking through the desert. The wind was howling like crazy and some sand got into my eyes. Really, the trip was no child's play.



Jason: My favourite astronomical phenomenon is the lunar (5) \_\_\_\_\_. When that happens, it looks as if the moon were being chewed off bit by bit by an invisible mouth. Sometimes, I would even see a bright ring around the moon. It is called a (6) \_\_\_\_\_, isn't it? I wish I could see both someday.



Daisy: You won't believe it: yesterday I saw a (7) \_\_\_\_\_. To see one such symbol of peace, a single spectrum of seven colours, after rain is rare enough, but to see two—how lucky I must've been!



Robert: Last time I was in Japan, I thought about climbing one of those snowy mountains there. But I gave up the thought because I was afraid of encountering a (8) \_\_\_\_\_. It can be fatal, and I didn't want to risk my life. Perhaps I should be more courageous and try it out next time!