Adages and Proverbs - ANSWER KEY

Grade 4 | Explaining the meaning of common adages and proverbs

A proverb, or adage, is an old saying that gives advice. Its meaning is bigger than its exact words. Read each saying and circle the letter of what it really means.

1. "Look before you leap."

a. jump as high as you can (b.) think before you act c. look up at the sky

2. "Practice makes perfect."

(a.) doing it often helps b. rest as much as you can c. never try new things

3. "Don't judge a book by its cover."

a. buy books with nice covers b. read only short books (c.) looks can fool you

4. "The early bird catches the worm."

a. birds eat worms (b.) starting early pays off c. sleep in when you can

5. "Actions speak louder than words."

a. talk in a loud voice b. stay very quiet (c.) what you do matters most

6. "Better safe than sorry."

(a.) playing it safe is wise b. always say sorry c. hide your things

7. "Slow and steady wins the race."

a. run as fast as you can (b.) keep going step by step c. races are hard to win

8. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

a. carry eggs with care b. baskets break easily (c.) don't count on one thing

9. "Every cloud has a silver lining."

(a.) bad times can bring good b. clouds are made of silver c. rain is on the way