Aphorism – a short, concise statement expressing a wise or clever observation or a general truth.

Directions: Read each aphorism below and match it to its meaning. Write your answers on your own paper.

1. The doors of wisdom are never shut.
2. Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.
3. Early to bed, early to rise, makes a young man happy, healthy, and wise.
4. Love your neighbor; yet don’t pull down your hedge.
5. Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.
6. God helps those that help themselves.
7. The rotten apple spoils his companions
8. An open foe may prove a curse; but a pretend friend is worse.
9. A true friend is the best possession.
10. Have you somewhat to do tomorrow, do it today.
11. A small leak will sink a great ship.
12. No gains without pains.
13. Well done is better than well said.
14. Write injuries in the dust, benefits in marble.

a. Know the people you live next to, but don’t let them know everything.
b. One person can bring down a whole group.
c. You have to work hard to achieve your goals.
d. You can never stop learning.
e. Do not tell your secrets to anyone, because people can’t always keep them.
f. Do not procrastinate or put things off if you can get them done today.
g. Forget the negative things people do or say; remember the positive.
h. Good eating and sleeping habits will make you a better person.
i. Be very careful in choosing your friends so you will be able to have them for a long time.
j. Your actions speak louder than your words.
k. It is better to know your enemies than not to know your true friends.
l. The best thing in the world is to have a friend.
m. A little problem can lead to bigger problems.
n. If you help yourself, God will smile on you.