



*P*roverbs

to promote understanding across generations and cultures



PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

Theme 1: **Old age can be a time of enjoyment.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Italian

To retire is like getting a second youth.

Japanese

The second life.

Korean

Life begins when you are sixty.



Theme 2: **Along with old age comes a greater level of wisdom and life experience.**

LANGUAGE	PROVERB
Spanish	The devil knows more because he's old than because he's the devil.
Chinese (Mandarin)	I have eaten more salt than you have eaten rice.
Arabic (Lebanese)	He who has not any old man (in his household) let him buy one.
Chinese (Mandarin)	An old horse will never get lost.
Tongan	Literally, "Keeper of the land."
Portuguese	The old pan is the one that makes good food.



Theme 3: **Old age as a time of challenge—
potential for loneliness, vulnerability, and
lack of ability.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Swedish

Youth goes in a flock, manhood in pairs, and old age alone.

Hawaiian

An oldster who has never reared children sleeps by the roadside.

**Chinese
(Cantonese)**

Teaching an old person to learn is like asking a cow to climb a tree.

Irish

The old man hasn't the place of the cat in the ashes.



Theme 4: **We have control over how we age.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

German

The person who rests will rust.

French

A man is as old as his arteries.



Theme 1: **Youth as a time of naivete and inexperience.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Hungarian

The eggshell is still on your butt.

Korean

There is blood on your head and it is not dried off yet.

Chinese

He who has no hair on his lip can't be trusted to do anything well.

Spanish

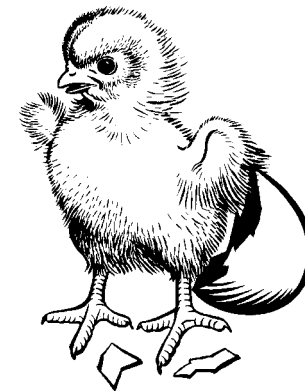
Youth is an illness that time cures.

Hawaiian

You are a bud, he is spurred.

Tongan

Uttering of fools.



Theme 2: **Childhood and youth as times of
hopefulness and celebration.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Spanish

Youth lives on hope and old age on memories.

Japanese

The flower of youth.

**Kannada
(India)**

The upbringing of today's youth is the determinant of
tomorrow's world.

**Chinese
(Mandarin)**

Young people are like the rising sun.



Theme 1: **Difficulties of intergenerational communication.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

**Chinese
(Cantonese)**

Intergenerational communication is like
“playing music to a cow.”

**Chinese
(Mandarin)**

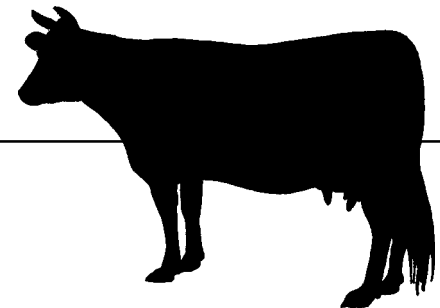
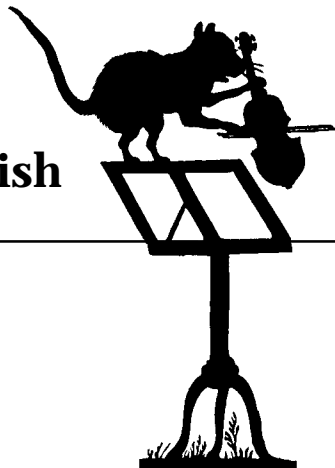
A young person talking to an older adult is like
“a chicken talking to a duck.”

Indonesia

Intergenerational communication is like
“an areca nut divided into two.”

Swedish

It is like a river. It flows downstream.



Theme 2: **Positive aspects of intergenerational communication (notions of interdependence).**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Chinese

As in the Yangtse River, the waves behind drive on those ahead, so each young generation should excel the last one.

Chinese

One generation plants the trees under whose shade future generations rest.



Theme 3: **Intergenerational relations within the family.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Chuuk

When one has many relatives, he is like a chief. He can accomplish anything. He has money, work goes well, and food is provided.

Korean

The more branches a tree has, the more winds it attracts.

**Ilocano
(Phillipines)**

Take care of the young and they will take care of you in your old age.

Spanish

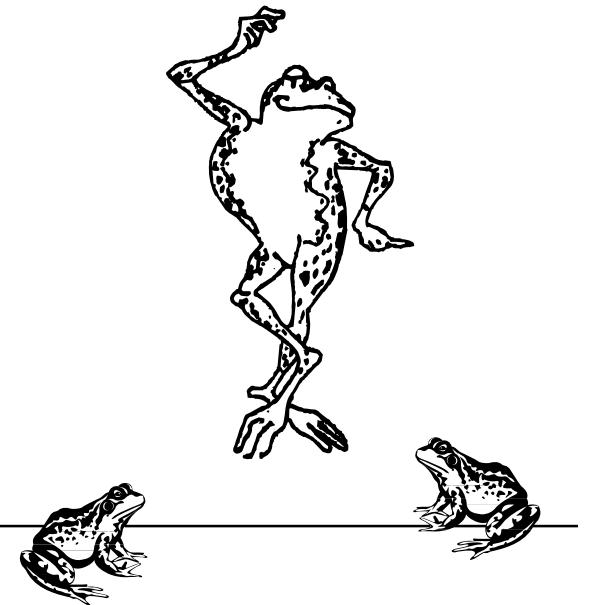
From such a stick, such a splinter.
Like father, like son.

Japanese

Children of frogs are frogs.

Korean

Father hands down, son hands down.



Theme 4: **Youth rebellion.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Swedish

If the Stone Age children had obeyed their parents, we would still be living in the Stone Age.

Swedish

In a family, the mother is the government, the father is the people, and the kid is the opposition.

Japanese

When you become old, you should obey your child.



Theme 1: **It is best not to act too hastily.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Chinese

Think three times before you act.

Sesotho (African)

The 'hurry-hurry' person eats goat; the one who takes his or her time eats beef.

Russian

Take thy thoughts to bed with thee, for the morning is wiser.

Danish

The best advice is found on the pillow.

English

Patience is a virtue.

Portuguese

Hurry is the number one enemy of perfection.

English

Good and quickly seldom meet.

English

Haste makes waste.



Theme 2: **The use of time is associated with one's work ethic.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

English

The early bird gets the worm.

Zaire

A person who arrives early to the spring never gets dirty drinking water.

**Assiniboine Indian
(Native American)**

Be an early riser; the game do not snuggle their heads on feather pillows.

English

Early sow, early mow.

English

Strike while the iron is hot.

German

A little too late is much too late.

English

He who hesitates is lost.



Theme 3: **Take responsibility to help yourself.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Indian

Call on God, but row away from the rocks.

Arabic

Trust in Allah, but tie your camel.

German

God gives nuts, but he doesn't crack them.

Japanese

Pray to God, but hammer away.

English

God helps those who help themselves.



Theme 4: **Silence is associated with wisdom and knowledge.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Thai

A wise man talks a little, an ignorant one talks much.

Spanish

Who knows most speaks the least.

Tanzanian

The wisest animal is the giraffe; it never speaks.

Bible
(Proverbs 17:28)

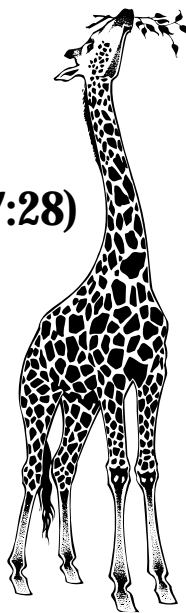
Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise; and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

French

The less one thinks, the more one speaks.

English

A closed mouth catches no flies.



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Theme 4: **Silence is associated with wisdom and knowledge.**

LANGUAGE	PROVERB
Chinese	Two good talkers are not worth one good listener.
Indonesian	Rippling water shows lack of depth.
Jamaican	If speech wut a schillin', silence wut a pound.
Italian	Many have suffered from talking; none ever suffered for keeping silent.
Peru	From the tree of silence hangs the fruit of tranquility.
Hopi Indian	Eating little and speaking little can hurt no man.



Theme 5: **Excessive or unguarded talking can cause harm.**

LANGUAGE	PROVERB
Japanese	The tongue is more to be feared than the sword.
Chinese	The tongue is like a sharp knife. . . it kills without drawing blood.
Nilotic (African)	Words can kill before arms.
Arabic	Turn each word seven times in your tongue before you speak.
American	A word and a stone let go cannot be recalled.
Turkish	Empty vessels make the most noise.



Theme 6: **We are influenced by those with whom we associate.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Argentina

Associate with good men and you will be one of them.

Blackfoot Indian

Those that lay down with dogs get up with fleas.

Spanish

Live with wolves and you learn to howl.



Theme 7: **Each person is an individual.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Japanese

Ten people, ten colors.

Yiddish

Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough,
but not baked in the same oven.

English

Different strokes for different folks.



Theme 8: **Greed does not pay.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Russian

A sparrow in the hand is better than a cock on the roof.

English

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Latin

If you run after two hares, you will catch neither.

Blackfoot Indian

A sparrow in the bush is better than
a vulture flying.



Theme 9: **Education is important.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Chinese

Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day.
Teach him to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.

Chinese

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.

German

A teacher is better than two books.



Theme 10: **Different conceptions of family.**

LANGUAGE

PROVERB

Hawaiian

Look to the source.

Zulu

We are who we are today because of you who came before us.

