

## The Month of March “Comes in Like a Lion and Goes Out Like a Lamb.”

A proverb is a short, popular saying that shares a bit of commonplace wisdom. Some proverbs are written to help us remember an everyday truth, while others share wisdom about how to treat people or deal with a difficult situation.

In writing this month's classroom activity, I couldn't help but laugh to myself as I thought of the many proverbs young students hear every day, often with no explanation. What do they think when they hear these metaphorical sayings?

- \* Monkey see, monkey do.
- \* Don't cry over spilt milk.
- \* Beggars can't be choosers.
- \* Give someone an inch and they will take a mile!

Start the discussion by examining a few proverbs with your students. Begin with examples of popular proverbs that have an easily understood, transparent meaning. Ask students how they are familiar with the proverbs. Where did they hear them? Who used them and why? Discuss the possible meanings of each of the following proverbs:

- \* Practice makes perfect.
- \* A friend in need, is a friend indeed.
- \* Honesty is the best policy.
- \* Two wrongs don't make a right.

Next, discuss examples of metaphorical proverbs and brainstorm what they mean.

- \* Don't judge a book by its cover.
- \* Don't count your chickens before they hatch.
- \* When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Extend the discussion into a writing activity by having each student choose a proverb to illustrate with a short story, a drawing or both.

