Tuesdays With Morrie
Creating Original Aphorisms

As we continue our look into Morrie Schwartz’s impressive list of aphorisms, it’s time for you to create three of your own. The aphorism that you create should be unique to you and not simply a copy or even a close resemblance to any that Morrie Schwartz has already said (or anyone else for that matter). This will require a bit of thinking, but who ever said thinking was a bad thing? Follow the guidelines below to create the perfect aphorism.

**Aphorism**: A short, usually one or two sentence, statement in which the speaker wishes to impart some sort of wisdom onto the reader. An aphorism is meant to encourage a reader while teaching him/her a lesson that he/she can live by. An aphorism should benefit everyone, not a single group of people.

**Here are some helpful examples below:**

X – “Love is great!” This statement does not teach a lesson and really isn’t all that encouraging.
√ - “Love always wins!” This statement is encouraging and in fact does teach a lesson.

X – “Popularity makes everyone happy!” This statement is meant for a certain group of people. Popular ones!
√ - “Be proud of who you are. In the end, it’s all that matters!” This aphorism can be applied to EVERYONE!

X – “Love is the smartest thing.” This statement is WAY too similar to “Love is the only rational act.”

X – “Help everyone that needs it.” This statement is just too broad. It is not specific enough.

X – “Study hard. Do your homework. And pay attention in school. You will succeed.” This is simply common sense. This is not wisdom and you really are not encouraging anyone.

**Use this Diagram to Help you Create your Aphorism!**

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Which type of aphorism do you want to write about?

Life Lesson
This type of aphorism will teach the audience a lesson about life.

10th Grade or High School in General
This type of aphorism will teach the audience a lesson about life in 8th grade or Middle School
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Topic:
Brainstorms important aspects of Life:
Example: Friends, Family, etc…
Explain Why!

1
What do you want people to learn from your first topic?

2
What do you want people to learn from your second topic?

3
What do you want people to learn from your third topic?

Topic:
Brainstorms important aspects of 10th Grade:
Example: Success, Behavior, etc…
Explain Why!
My Aphorisms:

Aphorism #1:

Aphorism #2:

Aphorism #3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMAIN</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTENT</td>
<td>All aphorisms accurately follow the guidelines of an aphorism. Each aphorism offers encouragement while teaching a lesson to the reader.</td>
<td>Two of the three aphorisms accurately follow the guidelines of an aphorism. Two aphorisms offer encouragement while teaching a lesson to the reader.</td>
<td>Only one aphorism accurately follows the guidelines of an aphorism. The other aphorisms do not teach a lesson and do not offer encouragement. Less than three aphorisms were offered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAMMAR</td>
<td>Spelling and punctuation are 100% accurate in all three aphorisms.</td>
<td>One spelling or punctuation error is present in all three aphorisms.</td>
<td>Multiple spelling or punctuation errors are present in all three aphorisms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORIGINALITY</td>
<td>All aphorisms show complete originality and do not resemble any of Morrie Schwartz’s aphorisms.</td>
<td>One or more of the aphorisms shows a slight resemblance to an aphorism from Morrie Schwartz.</td>
<td>One or more of the aphorisms greatly resemble an aphorism or aphorisms from Morrie Schwartz.</td>
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Aphorism Brainstorming: _____ / 5

TOTAL: _____ / 20