Aphorisms from Poor Richard’s Almanack by Ben Franklin

Poor Richard’s Almanack was Franklin’s biggest publishing success, being published annually for 26 years (1732-1758). The almanack included aphorisms. (An aphorism is a short memorable statement that makes a wise observation about life.) “Poor Richard” was an imaginary astrologer, who had a critical wife named Bridget. It was Poor Richard and sometimes his wife who “wrote” this almanac. In truth, it was Franklin, writing these aphorisms. In doing so, Franklin printed sayings from other languages, from other writers, and adapted phrases to create these statements. He didn’t create all of them himself.

Part I: Read through the aphorisms written by Ben Franklin. Use either the Wit and Wisdom from Poor Richard’s Almanack book in class or this website http://www.poorrichards.net/ (use website if absent)

Part II:
• Find and write down two aphorisms you like that you think are entertaining or humorous.

• Find and write down two aphorisms you like that you think are instructive in nature-statements that you believe contain good advice.

• Find and write down two aphorisms you like that you think are inspiring – statements that really make you think about your life and how you can improve it.

(over, please)
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**Part III:** Choose one aphorism. (It does not have to be one that you wrote down on the front page.)

- a) Explain the aphorism’s literal meaning
- b) Explain the idea the aphorism expresses (What’s the real-life message or advice?)
- c) Come up with a real world example that connects to the aphorism’s meaning.
- d) BONUS: Draw a picture that illustrates the aphorism.

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<th>Aphorism: “</th>
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**Explain the aphorism’s literal meaning:**
The aphorism refers to the fact that…

**Explain the idea expressed:**

**Specific real world example:**

BONUS: Draw a picture that illustrates the aphorism. Include the aphorism at the bottom of the photo. Drawing may be done on paper or on an iPad app.