Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Born the son of a Boston tallow (candle) maker, Benjamin Franklin became a printer's apprentice. Eventually he acquired his own printing shop in Philadelphia and by 1730 was publishing his widely-read journal *Poor Richard's Almanack* (1732-1757), from which the following maxims (a concise rule of conduct or universal statement of truth) are drawn.

1. Industry, Perseverance, and Frugality make fortune yield.
2. Early to bed, and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
3. Never leave that till tomorrow, which you can do today.
4. God helps them that helps themselves.
5. A light purse is a heavy curse.
6. Lost time is never found again.
7. The sleeping fox catches no poultry, and there will be sleeping enough in the grave.
8. Beware of little expenses: a small leak will sink a great ship.
9. Glass, china and reputation are easily cracked and never well mended.
10. Don’t judge of men’s wealth or piety by their Sunday appearances.
11. He that riseth late, must trot all day, and shall scarce overtake his business at night.
12. A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.
13. Tart words make no friends; a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.
14. Fish and visitors smell in three days.
15. In short, the Way to Wealth, if you desire it, is as plain as the Way to Market. It depends chiefly on two Words, INDUSTRY and FRUGALITY: i.e. Waste neither Time nor Money, but make the best Use of both. He that gets all he can honestly, and saves all he gets (necessary Expenses excepted) will certain become RICH. If that Being who governs the World, to whom all should look for a Blessing on their honest Endeavors, doth not in his wise Providence otherwise determine.

*Directions*: Select one of the above maxims that has applied to your life at some time. Draw a picture of the situation that the maxim illustrates in your life. Write the maxim on the front of the page (the illustration page). Then, turn over your illustration, and write an account of the situation in your life in which that maxim was pertinent. In other words, how did you experience that maxim in your life? Be sure to put your name on the paper.
Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them.

Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.

Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.

Three may keep a secret if two of them are dead.

The rotten apple spoils his companions.

An open foe my prove a curse; but a pretended friend is worse.

Have you somewhat to do tomorrow, do it today.

A true friend is the best possession.

No gains without pains.

'Tis easier to prevent bad habits than to break them.

Well done is better than well said.

Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of.

(squander = spend or use wastefully)

Write injuries in dust, benefits in marble.

If your head is wax, don’t walk in the sun.

A good example is the best sermon.

Genius without education is like silver in the mine.

Haste makes waste

The doors of wisdom are never shut.

Love your neighbor; yet don’t pull down your hedge.

He that lives upon hope will die fasting.

(fasting: eating very little or nothing)