

1. Master the Metaphorical Leap

Teach your students this simple bridge in their introduction:

1. **Start Literal:** Mention the prompt and what it *literally* means (e.g., "The almanac warns us not to plant before the last frost...").
2. **Make the Leap:** State what the advice *really* means for life (e.g., "...but metaphorically, this is advice about **patience** and **timing**").
3. **Thesis:** State the two or three points that prove the metaphorical lesson.

2. The Universal Application Structure



Use the -point structure but frame the points to show the advice's versatility:

- **Point 1: Personal/Self-Improvement:** Apply the advice to a student's life (e.g., studying, a personal goal, a relationship).
- **Point 2: History/Society:** Apply the advice to a historical event, a famous person, or a current societal trend.
- **Point 3: Pop Culture/Fiction:** Apply the advice to a character in a book, movie, or TV show.

3. Delivery: Calm and Grounded

Since the prompts are traditional, encourage a **calm, deliberate, and wisdom-sharing tone**. The student should sound like they've just stepped off a porch swing, ready to share a timeless truth. A slightly slower pace reinforces the "sage advice" theme.

20 Farmer's Almanac Advice Prompts & Speaking Tips

These prompts are traditional pieces of folk wisdom that can be easily translated into powerful life lessons.

#	Prompt	Thematic Tip for Novice Speaker	Structure Suggestion
1	"Plant in the sign of the full moon."	Interpret this as the importance of timing and capitalizing on periods of peak opportunity or energy.	P1: Waiting for the right moment (not rushing into a project). P2: Capitalizing on "full moon" energy (personal motivation, group excitement).
2	"The best fertilizer is the farmer's shadow."	Speak about the necessity of personal attention and hands-on effort for true success.	P1: Why micromanagement fails (too much shade). P2: Why genuine oversight and presence succeed (the right amount of shadow).
3	"Look to the pig's mud bath for your next weather forecast."	Focus on learning to read the signs around you, even if they seem unconventional or messy.	P1: The value of unconventional data sources (non-academic wisdom). P2: Reading the "mud baths" in our own lives (body language, small hints).

4	"A stitch in time saves nine."	A classic proverb, interpret it as the power of proactive effort and fixing small problems immediately.	P1: The cost of ignoring small problems (procrastination). P2: The efficiency of taking immediate, small action.
5	"Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky at morning, sailor take warning."	Focus on the idea of predicting the future by observing the present moment.	P1: Reading the signs of success (night/delight). P2: Heeding the signs of trouble (morning/warning).
6	"A good farmer never plants all his seeds in one place."	Interpret this as advice about diversity and risk management in life and career.	P1: Diversifying your skills/hobbies. P2: Not depending on a single outcome for happiness (emotional risk).
7	"An apple a day keeps the doctor away."	Focus on the power of small, consistent habits for long-term health and success.	P1: The power of a single, positive habit (the apple). P2: Why consistency (every day) is better than a huge burst of effort.
8	"Don't let the sun set on a disagreement."	Speak about the importance of quick resolution and not allowing negative emotions to fester.	P1: The danger of "sleeping on it" when it comes to conflict. P2: The peace that comes from swift, honest resolution.

9	"Patience is the gardener's best tool."	Focus on the necessary link between time, effort, and growth in any endeavor.	P1: The need for patience in school (learning curves). P2: The patience required to grow a skill or a relationship.
10	"Never sell a horse that has won a race for you."	Interpret this as advice to cherish loyalty and value reliable resources or people.	P1: Valuing your own hard-won skills (the reliable "horse"). P2: The mistake of

			abandoning faithful friends or routines.
11	"The first day of spring is not the first day to plant."	Interpret this as advice about preparation and understanding that opportunity requires a prior foundation.	P1: Why preparation must precede action. P2: The difference between an <i>official start</i> (spring) and a <i>readiness point</i> (planting).
12	"Better safe than sorry."	A common idiom, interpret it as the value of prudence and preparing for unlikely events.	P1: The minor inconvenience of being safe (carrying an umbrella). P2: The major consequence of being sorry (a ruined day).
13	"Shallow roots mean a quick demise."	Speak about the need for depth and substance in relationships, knowledge, or character.	P1: The failure of surface-level learning (shallow roots). P2: The stability of a well-researched argument or a deep friendship.
14	"The morning hour has gold in its mouth."	Focus on the productivity and clarity that come from starting your day early .	P1: The benefit of quiet, early mornings for mental work. P2: The "gold" you gain (time, focus, a head start).

15	"When the cat sneezes, it's going to rain."	Interpret this as the need to pay attention to small details that signal a major change.	P1: Recognizing small signs of stress in a friend. P2: Noticing the small changes in a political or social climate that signal a big storm.
16	"If you would have good crops, you must have good tools."	Speak about the importance of investing in your resources and self-improvement.	P1: Investing in study habits (good tools for school). P2: Investing in your health (the most important tool).
17	"Never dig a well only when you are thirsty."	Focus on the critical need for planning ahead and building resources <i>before</i> you need them.	P1: The panic of needing something you didn't prepare for. P2: The security of having a "well" (savings, knowledge) already dug.
18	"Where the bee sucks, there suck I."	Interpret this (from Shakespeare/Almanac lore) as advice to seek sweetness and wisdom where it is found, even in unexpected places.	P1: Finding enjoyment in small moments. P2: Seeking knowledge from unusual mentors or sources.
19	"Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun."	Interpret this as advice about knowing your limits and respecting nature/your body.	P1: The danger of ignoring personal warning signs. P2: Why we must know when to seek "shade" and rest.

20	"If the ice is strong enough to hold a man, it's strong enough to hold a wagon."	Focus on the confidence gained by proving strength on a small scale before tackling a large challenge.	P1: Testing an idea with a small group first (the man). P2: Applying the successful lesson to a major project (the wagon).
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