Unit 1: Perception is Everything: Aphorism Worksheet

An **aphorism** is a short statement, usually one sentence, that uniquely expresses an opinion, perception, or general truth.

Read all the following aphorisms. Select FIVE to paraphrase (put in your own words). Write those on the back. Then, select TWO to illustrate. Illustrate those 2 aphorisms (separate sheet each). Your illustration should help to understand the meaning of the aphorism. Include the aphorism as well as a paragraph that explains how they relate to the idea that seeing and understanding are always shaped by how we perceive the world.

Aphorisms:

1. “If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.”—Anonymous
2. “Until lions tell their stories, tales of hunting will glorify the hunter.” —African proverb
3. “Theory is subversive because it puts authority in question.” —Stephen Bonnycastle
4. “What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing; it also depends on what sort of person you are.”—C. S. Lewis
5. “The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”—Marcel Proust
6. “You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.”—Tom Wilson
7. “All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth.”—Richard Avedon
8. “There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception.”—Aldous Huxley
9. “The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.”—Henri Bergson
10. “Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world.”—George Bernard Shaw
11. “Whilst part of what we perceive comes through our senses from the object before us, another part (and it may be the larger part) always comes out of our own mind.”—William James
12. “Language forces us to perceive the world as men present it to us.”—Julia Penelope
13. “If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world.”—Ludwig Wittgenstein
14. Youth is a blunder; Manhood a struggle; Old age regret. [Benjamin Disraeli]
15. Pride goeth before a fall. [[Proverb](https://literarydevices.net/proverb/)]
16. The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones. -William Faulkner
17. Life’s [tragedy](https://literarydevices.net/tragedy/) is that we get old too soon and wise too late. -[Benjamin Franklin](https://literarydevices.net/benjamin-franklin/)
18. Yesterday is but today’s memory, and tomorrow is today’s dream. -Khalil Gibran
19. The simplest questions are the hardest to answer. -Northrop Frye
20. …even a proverb is no proverb until your life has illustrated it.  -[John Keats](https://literarydevices.net/john-keats/)
21. Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind. -Rudyard Kipling
22. A barking dog never bites.

Paraphrases- Select 5 (Rewrite the aphorism in your own words.)

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Select TWO of your paraphrased aphorisms to illustrate. Explain how each relates to the idea that seeing and understanding are always shaped by how we perceive the world.