"The early bird gets the worm."

Proverb Log for *Things Fall Apart*
Name: _____English 10 – Ms. Bigelow

Proverbs are short sayings that express a common truth or experience. They are memorable not only because they are so brief (usually no more than a sentence) but also because, like poetry, they compress complicated ideas into a few thoughtfully crafted words. In the oral literatures of the world, proverbs are much more than just quaint old sayings. Instead they represent a poetic form that uses few words but achieves a great depth of meaning. In cultures that have no written literature, proverbs function as the distilled essence of a people's values and knowledge. They are used to settle legal disputes, resolve ethical problems, and instruct children.

Proverbs often contain puns, rhymes, and clever allusions. They often incorporate **literary devices** like **metaphors**: "Proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten" (*Things Fall Apart*), **alliteration**: "He who laughs last laughs best", **parallelism**: "Where there's a will, there's a way", and **rhyme**: "When the cat's away, the mice will play." They are often easily translated into other languages. See how many you can find in *Things Fall Apart*.

Log the proverbs you find in the chart below and write down your translation, the speaker and page number, and the literary device.

Proverb	Your translation (What do you think it means in the context of the story?)	Page number and speaker	Literary Device