

***Folklore Stories and Proverbs* by Sara E. Wiltse, and *Proverb Stories*
by Louisa M. Alcott - An Analysis**

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Abstract

The present paper examines proverbs in *Folklore Stories and Proverbs* by Sara E. Wiltse, and *Proverb Stories* by Louisa M. Alcott. It is an attempt to understand the proverbs deeply rooted in other cultures. The stories are set in different contexts and cultures hence, they might use different proverbial functions. The contexts, the culture, and the elements related to natural, social, and traditional aspects vary from one culture to another. The intentions, implications of actions, and traditional beliefs differ. Therefore, it becomes difficult to understand the proverbs used in other societies. I have tried to understand and interpret the proverbs in the best possible way using the context provided by the story. The analysis hopefully provides a better understanding of the proverbs used in these short stories.

Keywords: Sara E. Wiltse, Louisa M. Alcott, Folklore Stories, Proverbs Stories, Proverbs in other societies

Sara E. Wiltse

Sara Eliza Wiltse was a teacher but was noted for storybooks for children. She wrote one hymn, "A Prayer for Each Season". She has written, edited, gathered, and illustrated many folk stories for children. Among her notable works are *Kindergarten Stories and Morning Talks With Over 125 Illustrations*, *Little Mouse Who Lost His*, *Stories for Kindergartens and Primary Schools*, *Kindergarten Stories and Morning Talks*, and *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. She along with other editors,

and illustrators simplified books like *Grimm's Fairy Tales* for children. She was also the author of other scholarly works like *The Place of the Story in Early Education: And Other Essays*, and *Myths and Motherplays*.

Louisa M. Alcott

She was an American short story writer, poet, and novelist known for her works *Little Women* published in 1868, and its sequel *Good Wives* published in 1869. Her well-known books include *Little Men* published in 1871, and its sequel *Jo's Boys* was published in 1886. She started writing at an early age. She was influenced by her contemporary authors like Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau. Publication of her *Hospital Sketches* in 1863 when she was working as a nurse during the American Civil War earned her recognition on the literary platform. She also used her pen name A. M. Bernard to write gaudy short stories and sensation novels for adults.

“The wise can learn of fools.”

“Better alone than in bad company” (Wiltse 10).

The above proverbs are used in the folktale *Henny Penny*. The story is about Henny Penny picking peas in the yard. Suddenly, a pea fell on her head with such a force that she thought as if the sky was falling. She decided to tell the king about this. On her way, she met a cock whom she told everything about. The cock accompanied the hen, and they went further. They met a chicken to whom they told everything, and he also joined them. Later they met a duck, and he also joined the company. They went further and met a goose. The goose also joined them. They all went further and met a turkey. They explained everything to the turkey, and they went together. They all reached the king's palace and told the king that the sky was falling. The king told them that the sky could not fall. The hen explained to him how it happened. The king saw the hen's back and found a tiny pea. The tale ends with the above proverbs. The first proverb indicates that the others who joined the hen without thinking learned a lesson from her. The king told them the reality and showed them the foolishness of hen. The proverb is made of “the wise”, “can learn”, and “of fools”. Thus, the proverb suggests that wise people can learn out of the ignorance of a fool. The second

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proverb indicates that others should have avoided the company of the hen as her experience was wrong. They should have told the hen about reality, but they believed her and became fools. The proverb is made of “better alone”, and “than in bad company”. Thus, the proverb advises that one should prefer loneliness to bad company. The company of a bad person always leads to severe consequences.

“Wisdom is better than riches”

“A grain does not fill the sack; but it helps”

“Every day a thread makes a skein in a year” (Wiltse 18).

The proverbs find their place in the folktale *Big Spider and Little Spider*. The tale is the story of a big and a small spider. One day the big spider saw the small spider spinning her first web. The big spider took swings on her rope. A fly came and asked the big spider why she was swinging. The spider told her that the small spider had spun her first web. The fly went buzzing and met a bumblebee. The bumblebee asked Fly why she was buzzing. She answered that the small spider had spun her first web; the big spider was swinging on her rope. The bumblebee went humming and met the grasshopper. The grasshopper asked the bumblebee why she was humming. The bumblebee told him that the small spider had spun her first web; the big spider was swinging on her rope; and the fly was buzzing. The grasshopper thought that he would cry out loud. He went making a loud noise and met an ant. The ant asked him why he was making a loud noise. He told her that the small spider had spun her first web; the big spider was swinging on her rope; the fly was buzzing. The ant thought about doing something. The ant ran here and there and met a butterfly. The butterfly asked the ant why she was running here and there. The ant told the butterfly that the small spider had spun her first web; the big spider was swinging on her rope; the fly was buzzing; the grasshopper was making noise. After listening to this, the butterfly decided to float in the air to express joy. The butterfly heard the children asking questions about the spider’s spinning web and swinging, buzzing of the fly, crying of the grasshopper, running of the ant, and floating of the butterfly. The wise men told the children that they do so because the children should learn wisdom. The first proverb indicates that children should become wise because wisdom is superior to wealth. The proverb is made of “wisdom”, and “better than riches”. Thus, the proverb prioritizes

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wisdom over wealth. The second proverb indicates that children's inquiry gives them worldly knowledge and makes them responsible citizens. The proverb is made of "a grain", "does not fill the sack", and "but it helps". Thus, the proverb suggests that the addition of knowledge does not burden a person but helps in difficult situations. The third proverb indicates that the wisdom of children makes them wiser gradually. The proverb is made of "every day", "a thread", and "makes a skein in a year". Thus, the proverb suggests that wisdom earned slowly makes a person wiser day by day. A person does not become wise in a day, but it takes time to be wise.

**"T is good to travel east and west,
But after all a home is best" (Wiltse 32/36).**

The proverb finds its place at the end of the folktale *The Sheep and the Pig*. The tale is about a sheep and a pig who decided to build their house together far from the men's houses. They met a goose and told her what they planned to do as they were going. The goose asked them to take her with them. They asked her what she could do for them. She told them that she could fill in the cracks of the wall. So, they took her with them. They went further and met a rabbit. The rabbit asked them to take him with them. They asked the rabbit what he could do. The rabbit told them that he could make pegs and fit them into the wall. Thus, they took him with them. At last, they met a cock who asked them to take him with them. They asked him what he could do. The cock told them that he could make them wake up early. They agreed and took him with them. They found the right place to build the house. Every one among them helped to build the house and lived happily. The proverb indicates that even if we travel the whole world, a house is the only best place. The sheep, pig, goose, rabbit, and the cock did not have their own home, but when they built their own house, they felt better. The proverb is made of "t is good", "to travel east and west", "but after all", and "a home is best". Thus, the proverb suggests that home is far better than the world as we get the feeling of security, safety, and a sense of belonging in our home.

"Gold and silver do not make men better" (Wiltse 42)

The proverb is exemplified at the end of the folktale *The Sole*. The folktale tells the story of unruly fish who became tired of a lack of discipline. Hence, they all decided to choose a king who would make rules for them. Everyone wanted to be king, but they agreed that the fish that swims fast and helps others should be chosen as their king. So, they went to the shore and began the race at the signal of the pike with its tale. Everyone swam as fast as they could, but Herring won the race, and the little sole who was at the bottom of the sea tried so hard to look at their new king that his eyes popped out to one side of the head. From that time onwards, the soles have their eyes in this position. The proverb indicates that the fish looks golden, but it looks ugly due to his odd eyes. The proverb is made of “gold and silver, and “do not make men better”. Thus, the proverb advises that wealth does not make a person better, but his nature does. Exterior looks may project a person as descent, but his true identity is reflected through his behaviour.

“Well begun is half done”

“Once well done is better than twice ill done” (Wiltse 61).

The above proverbs are used in the folktale *The Three Bears*. The folktale is about a girl named Goldilock who goes into the forest to collect flowers. In the forest, there was a house of three bears. Among the three bears, the first was a big bear who was a father, the second was a medium-sized bear who was a mother, and the last was a small bear who was their child. Each bear had a chair, bed, and bowl according to size. Goldilocks came to the doorstep of the bear’s house. A crow was sitting on the edge of the house. The crow asked her to enter the house. When she entered the house, she saw three chairs. She tried to sit on the chair but could not fit into the bigger chairs. She sat on the chair for the small bear. She smelled the porridge in the bowls. She did not like the porridge in the bigger bowls and ate the porridge in the small bowl. Then she felt sleepy, so she went to bed. She tried all three beds and slept on the small bed. When the bears returned home, the small bear saw pink slippers at the doorstep. They went into the house and found that someone was sitting on their chairs. They also came to know that someone had tasted their porridges, and when they went to their bed, they understood that someone slept on their beds. However, the little bear found Goldilocks sleeping in his bed. They saw the girl and made her comfortable. She apologized to them for entering the house without their permission. She took out

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the berries that she collected and gave them to the little bear. She became ready to go home and invited the bears to her home. The story ends with the above proverbs. The first proverb indicates that Goldilocks found herself in danger, and thus she began apologizing as she entered their house without their permission. Hence, she was not harmed by them. The proverb is made of “well begun”, and “is half done”. The proverb suggests that one should start doing something very well at first. Thus, it gives better results. The second proverb indicates that Goldilocks did her best to get out of the bear house at once. Instead of beating around the bush, Goldilock straightaway expressed her apology and left the house. The proverb is made of “once well done”, and “better than twice ill done”. Thus, the proverb suggests that one should do something perfectly in the first instance instead of doing it wrong twice.

“What is worth doing at all is worth doing well”

“Everything is difficult at first”

“Do as you would be done by” (Wiltse 65).

The proverbs find their place at the end of a well-known folktale *The Lion and the Mouse*. One day the lion was sleeping in his cave when a mouse came and sat under his paw to protect himself from the cold. The lion saw the mouse and became angry. The lion threatened the mouse to kill him, but the mouse implored him not to kill him. The lion took pity on the mouse and released him. When the mouse was free, he promised the lion to help him whenever needed. One day the lion was caught in the net spread by the hunters. The lion tried to get out of it but could not free himself. He cried loudly for help. The mouse heard the lion’s cry and came for his help and soon cut down the ropes with his sharp teeth. Thus, the lion was saved. The above proverbs indicate different aspects of the story. The first proverb suggests that the lion released the mouse, which was worth it as the mouse later saved him. If the lion had not shown pity on the mouse, the hunters would have taken him away. Thus, it becomes clear that releasing the mouse was a worthy decision for the lion. Similarly, the mouse promised the lion to help him, and the mouse helped him genuinely. The proverb is made of “what is worth doing”, and “is worth doing well”. Thus, the proverb advises that if something is good to be done, it should be done very well. The second proverb indicates that the lion thought that the help of a mouse was an impossible thing at first,

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but the lion received the help in the hour of need. The proverb is made of “everything”, “difficult”, and “at first”. Thus, the proverb suggests that everything seems difficult initially, but it is not a fact. The third proverb indicates that the lion showed pity on the mouse as he needed to be shown in the same situation. The proverb is made of “do”, and “as you would be done by”. Thus, the proverb suggests that we should do the same thing to others as we expect others to do to us.

“With the good we become good” (Wiltse 79).

The above proverb is used in the folktale *The Tortoise and the Earth*. The folktale is among many stories of the tortoise and the earth. One of the stories is about baby Apollo who became a man in three hours. He made a lute of tortoise shells and played such sweet music that everyone in nature, including birds, animals, stones, and even the dead, felt the music’s joy. Even the tortoise must have been happy with the beats of the music. The proverb indicates that the animals, birds, stones, and even the dead became delighted in the company of music. Thus, it suggests that other things become good in the company of good things. The proverb is made of “with the good”, and “we become good”. Thus, the proverb advises us that we should remain in the company of good to become good. It reminds us of another proverb that the man is known by the company he keeps.

***Proverb Stories* by Louisa M. Alcott**

“A stitch in time saves nine” (Alcott 05).

The proverb is used at the beginning of the story *Kitty’s Class Day*. The story expounds on the proverb. It is the story of a girl named Kitty whom Jack invited to Class Day. She was very enthusiastic as she dreamed of it. She asked her sister to suggest to her what to wear. Kitty wanted a new dress for her Class Day. Pris listened to her sister’s plan to buy a new dress with the money she received from her grandfather. She did not want to disturb her with her disapproval, so she listened to her quietly. Pris warned her that it is terrible to imitate being rich with her smile of approval. Somehow Kitty managed to get her dress ready. It looked ridiculous, but her sister did not dare tell her and demoralize her. Kitty went to her Class Day the next day, and Jack received

her. They went in, and Jack took her with him everywhere. Kitty had neglected Jack and flirted with another boy for the first time. Her dress made her a laughingstock at the party, and Jack took her out of the party. She cried tragically over the torn train of her dress. Jack consoled her embarrassment and asked her to get ready for the party, but she insisted on going home. She thought about him as he tolerated her with all her shame. Both Jack and Kitty felt love for each other at the party. When a boy called Fletcher was making fun of Kitty at the party, Jack looked at him with anger. As Jack looked at his pocket watch, they realized that it was getting late, so they left the party. When Kitty returned home, Priscilla asked her if she had had a good time. Kitty answered that her Class Day was wasted, but she found a true man in Jack. The proverb is made of “a stitch in time”, and “saves nine”.

The proverb indicates that Kitty is fond of riches, and to show that she is also rich, she spends the money she has, but she comes to know that the boys she tries to attract are insensitive. She found Jack sensitive, and thus, they decided to get married. She should have understood this early, but her false considerations about others resulted in finding her real companion. This would have been avoided if she had understood it beforehand, but, indeed, man does not comprehend the above proverb until personal experience teaches the lesson. Thus, the proverb suggests that one should become aware of the probable loss and find the remedy earlier.

“Children and fools speak the truth” (Alcott 26).

The proverb finds its place at the story’s beginning, *Aunt Kipp*. The story is about Aunt Kipp who did not have any children. She was about to make her will and distribute her property among her kin. Her nephew, Polly’s father, was among her loved kin so she would allow him his share, but she did not do it. As a result, Polly was angry with her. She argued with her mother about why they were living a dull life and when they would get the money that Aunt Kipp had promised them. They needed money very much. Today quotes Aunt Kipp’s advice as she tells him not to postpone the activity till tomorrow if it could be done today. He told her mother that he would ask Aunt Kipp to follow her advice and die immediately rather than later. On this, Polly’s mother scolded Toady to behave himself and not say such a thing about Aunt Kipp. The proverb is made of “Children and fools”, and “speak the truth”. The proverb indicates that Toady and Polly

spoke the truth about Aunt Kipp, but they did not know that such things should not be said about anyone else. Polly and Toad are children, and they speak the truth. The proverb thus proves itself that children and fools speak the truth. The next proverb used in the story highlights a different point of view.

“Never to put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day” (Alcott 27).

The proverb finds its place in the story *Aunt Kipp*. The story begins with the conversation between Polly and her mother. Polly’s mother asked her why she sighed. Polly told her mother that she was tired of working and waiting. She needed to have fun while having it at the moment and not later. Polly’s mother told her that she could have fun the way she was having but she was helpless. Polly told her mother that if Aunt Kipp gave them the money she had promised them, they could have fun but why they should wait for her to die? She complained about how she lived life and allowed no one to live a comfortable life. She further exclaimed that it would be better if Aunt Kipp died. Polly’s mother told her not to say so. At the same time, Toady complained that Aunt Kipp always advised him in the form of the above proverb to do things that can be done today and not delay them tomorrow. The proverb is made of “never to put off till to-morrow”, and “what can be done to-day”. The proverb indicates that Aunt Kipp advised Toady not to postpone things till tomorrow if he can do them today. The reason behind using the proverb was that Toady was disturbed because he expected Aunt Kipp to follow her advice and die immediately so that they could enjoy the money she had promised them. Thus, the proverb suggests that one should not delay the work till tomorrow if it can be done today as it is said that tomorrow never comes.

“Handsome is that handsome does” (Alcott 55).

The proverb is exemplified at the beginning of the story *Psyche’s Art*. The story is about a wave of craziness about painting in a city. Everyone was so mad about the art that nothing was left alone without painting. The fences, walls, trees, houses, and everything were covered with artwork. Gradually the artists gathered in groups for their daily dose of gossip. One such group gathered daily at the spot called Raphael’s Room. A girl asked Psyche Dean to expound on her adventures

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to others. She said that she had not been a famous artist as she dropped her portfolio and a man lifted it. Miss Cutter told her that she was a genius, but Psyche Dean tried to hide her real talent. Psyche Dean was an introvert who did not talk openly about her observations, but the kind of conversation with others made her express what she observed and saw. They spoke of the appearance of the man who picked up her portfolio, and unknowingly, Psyche Dean described him precisely as he was. This made others believe that she was lying to them by saying that she did not have a good look at the man. Psyche was disturbed by the things at home and could not concentrate on her work. She asked others where Giovanni was. The other ladies told her that he might be upstairs playing truant. She went to call him to get some relief. She did not know how long she stood there, but her solitude was disturbed by a whistle. She saw an Italian boy standing. She asked Giovanni who did the statue. It was Paul Gage who made it. She appreciated it with a true heart. When she returned, she was asked if she had found Giovanni. She abruptly said yes and went away. She told the other girls that she would not be coming to the club as she decided to work at home.

Her artwork and household duties proved very difficult for her. She tried to keep up with the domestic work and her artwork, but she was interrupted by domestic responsibilities now and then. She asked her sister to help her work, but she played with the sick child. Psyche's sister died, after which her brother asked her to open the abandoned studio to make a bust of a child. She thought she had lost her ability but made a better attempt than before. Earlier, she tried sculptors with the theme of love and romance, but when she tried sculptors related to the memories of her family members, her artwork became more beautiful. The proverb is made of "handsome is", and "that handsome does". The proverb thus indicates that Psyche was a good artist, but she did not have the right direction. She tried to hide her thoughts from others, but as the proverb indicated, she was judged by her actions and not by her appearance. Other girls understood Psyche by explaining the man she met when her portfolio was dropped. Thus, the proverb suggests that one can understand a man by his actions rather than appearances.

“A handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning” (Alcott 84).

The proverb finds its place at the beginning of the story *A Country Christmas*. The story begins with a letter from Sophie Vaughan to Emily inviting them for Christmas. She was sure that Emily would come as she might be exhausted by the city life and needed a change. Everyone was busy preparing for Christmas and the arrival of the city guests. They talked about the likings of the city guests and prepared their farmhouse for them. The next day they came to know that their invitation had been accepted and the guests will arrive. After the arrival of the guests, they settled in the house and started talking about their lives. The hosts offered them food, and the guests accepted. The guests and the hosts sat down, talking about many things about the city and country life. Among the guests was a novelist, Randal, who regularly published his novel's episodes. He thought that the people of the countryside might not read whatever was published, but he was wrong as Saul asked him about the future episodes of his novels. Randal asked them if they read whatever he wrote in the episodes. Aunt Plumy argued that even though they live in the country, they have access to education, a library, and regular magazines. Saul reads the magazines to them during the long winter evenings. She explained what she perceived of his writing. Everyone was astonished to listen to her criticism, and Randal felt very happy that she had pointed out his weak points. Thus, the talk about his writing goes on.

With the help of Saul, Aunt Plumy, and Ruth, Sophie was able to show her guests how a country Christmas is celebrated and the simple life they live in the country. She successfully showed them how one can live a simple life and not needed fancy and extremely overdone things in life. Even though Emily had her reservations about city life, Sophie indicated what is essential in life, and merely a show is of no use. The proverb is made of "a handful of good life", and "is worth a bushel of learning". The proverb suggests that Emily and Randal thought they were learned, and modern people and their hosts are country people. Yet, they realized that Randal's novels were also being read and criticized in the country. They also come to know that they miss a good life and the learning of city life. Thus, the proverb suggests that a good life is better than plenty of knowledge.

"Better late than never" (Alcott 124).

The proverb is used at the beginning of the story *On Picket Duty*. The story is about four people named Phil, Dick, Flint, and Thorn on their picket duty. While on duty, they started telling each other about how they and their wives met. Flint was more interested in the neighbour's information. In the beginning, Dick told how he met his wife Kitty and married her. When he finished, Flint was asked to guard, and Thorn was supposed to describe how he met his wife. Thorn was reluctant to say any word, but he began to speak about his first meeting with his wife as Phil comforted him. He saw her first time when she was stealing apples from a stall. Thorn saw her and asked about her condition. She did not have a home to live in or money to take care of her, so he kept her in the house of a woman of his acquaintance. Then they met very often. He was on duty, so he could not give her time, and she felt as if in prison and left him one day. His deep sighs told his listeners how much he loved her. At the end of Thorn's story, he went to relieve Flint. Flint came to them and started telling his story about meeting his wife. Flint told his story interestingly. He went through many ups and downs as he met his wife and married her. At last, Flint asked Phil to describe how he met his wife. Phil told them they thought he was from Virginia, but he was not. He was from Alabama. Everyone became cautious, but he told them that they need not worry about him as whoever he was just because of his wife. Everyone completed their story of how they met their wives and how it influenced their lives. The proverb is made of "better late", and "than never" and it indicates that even though they were on their duty, they expressed their innermost feelings about their family to their friends. It happened accidentally that they told themselves; otherwise, their emotions would not have had a way out. Thus, the proverb suggests that one needs to do the things that have never been done, even though late. The characters in the story had never told their first meeting with their wives to anyone, but they told it to their companions while doing their duty rather than telling it to no one.

"All is fair in love and war" (Alcott 156).

The proverb is exemplified at the beginning of the story *The Baron's Gloves* or *Amy's Romance*. The story is about girls named Amy and Helen. They arrived at a hotel in Germany and were discussing their travel experiences. They found a pair of hand gloves with S.P. inscribed on

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them. Thus, they started guessing the name and the person. They checked out the list of people present in the hotel to find the full name of S.P. and Amy began fantasizing about the man. If he happens to be a gentleman, she decides to go with him for dinner. When they went for dinner, they started looking for the person, but they could not find him. Amy and Helen were dining when they heard the man's name, and they also heard about him from others that he was eating at another table. As the men met him, Amy looked at them to see who the man was. She quickly followed the men with Helen. When she tried to open the door, she could not open it. At that time, the man whom Amy and Helen were searching for opened the door for them. She asked her uncle to take those gloves to him. When he returned, they asked him if he had found him. He told them that he would come the next day. They were sleeping in their room when they heard a song. They went into the balcony, and Helen saw a bouquet dropped with her name on a card. However, the singer was singing a song with the name of Amy. The next day an attendant came and took them in a carriage. Later, they took a train, but Helen got out to take sunset pictures at an unknown station. The scene attracted her so much that she forgot the train was leaving. She was left at the station, and the attendant got out of the train to look for Helen. The attendant inquired about another train, and they stayed there waiting for the next train.

The next train came, but there was no space to occupy. Helen asked the attendant to stay with her. At first, he hesitated, but Helen ordered him to stay with her. At midnight the train met with an accident, and Helen was trapped in the carriage. She and the attendant were rescued somehow by fellow passengers. Thus, she was saved and sent away to the palace with her friend Amy. Helen and Amy were unaware that their uncle knew everything about the men who liked them. He and the men played a prank on them, and they were united in the end. The proverb relates to the happenings in the story. The proverb is made of "all is fair", and "in love and war". The above proverb indicates that whatever joke they played on Amy and Helen was fair as they loved them very much. Thus, the proverb suggests that everything is acceptable in love and war.

“He who serves well need not fear to ask his wages” (Alcott 251).

The proverb finds its place at the beginning of the story *My Red Cap*. The story begins with the farewell to an army troop that will face the war. Everyone was bidding them farewell, and the

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writer saw Joe Collins lonely standing aside. She went to him and offered him her last remaining apple. He seemed very quiet, so she asked him questions about his family. There was his mother, sick brother, and fiancée. She offered him some cigars and tobacco, and they parted. The writer met Joe in Washington Hospital when he was hurt six months later. The writer happened to be a military nurse. She recognized him when Joe's men put their names on their beds. She asked him very carefully how it happened. Joe had been in the hospital for two months. The writer learned about Joe's family through the letters she wrote for him and the letters he wrote to her. Thus, Joe and the writer parted again. Later, in November, the writer saw a man in a red cap standing opposite her house in front of the hotel. He did not have one hand and wore a blue army coat. She used to call him Red Cap. She did not meet him until she got a parcel to which she wrote an answer, and he asked her if she was the same woman who treated him in the Washington Hospital. She remembered him and told him that she had been watching him but was not sure if it was him. She offered him a seat to sit, and they talked about his family. He was left alone and was working for the parcel delivery firm. Then he went, and she told Bob about Joe. Joe kept visiting her house for gossip and inquiring about the refugee house for soldiers. In the following spring, Joe and the writer again parted.

In the following autumn, when the writer returned, she found a strange man working in place of Joe. She inquired about him and came to know that he had died. No one knew how he died. She started working for a charity, and one of her friends, Mrs. Flanagan, told her that there had been a man with one arm who took care of the children. She immediately thought of Joe and went to see the man, and he turned out to be Joe. She was so happy to see Joe alive, and she told him to get ready to go to his home. Joe became delighted and prepared to go with her. She managed to get Joe into the refugee home, and he was adequately taken care of. Thus, Joe received whatever he was worthy of. The proverb is made of "He who serves well", and "need not fear to ask his wages". The proverb indicates that Joe had served his country with his life. He lost his arm and family for the country; therefore, he must receive good facilities in the time of his necessity. He was so proud that he never begged and worked to earn his bread and butter. Thus, the proverb suggests that one need not fear to ask for his share in return. Joe had been very proud that he did not seek help from his fiancée. He had relatives in other cities, but he refused help. He was a proud person who believed in himself, and with one arm gone, he managed to live.

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Conclusion

This paper analyzed the proverbs presented in the works of two authors: *Folklore Stories and Proverbs* by Sara E. Wiltse and *Proverb Stories* by Louisa M. Alcott. It is evident that proverbs used in these Short Stories are infused within the specific context, and they do not directly affect the overall story. Proverbs can be understood based on a particular context yet it becomes challenging unless one reads the complete story. While analyzing the stories and the proverbs, it is observed that the story cannot be summarized using its corresponding proverb only because the proverb means something else, and the contextual story depicts something else. Thus, the interdependence of the stories and the proverbs is not evident. In some cases, the proverbs could be understood only in specific contexts without understanding the entire story. Still, in other cases, the whole story indirectly became the context of the proverb. And yet through appropriate conversations and conventions, we can follow the inferences of proverbs more easily if these are presented in our languages. Foreign proverbs are understood more easily if there are similar proverbs in our languages.

When proverbs are integrated in the stories in our textbooks, they will help encourage the students to read stories and improve their language skills.

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