The Return of Martín Fierro:
The Counterpoint (Chapter 30)

A) Complete El Negro's explanation of the law by putting the adjectives in the correct place.

RICH POOR GREAT SURPRISED IGNORANT SMART
BLACK SIMPLE LIGHT LITTLE

There's a _____ deal of learning that I'm not able to reach...
Ever since I learnt to be ignorant I'm not _____ at what anyone knows –
but no one who invites me to sing is going to find me a _____ weight.

I'm no very _____ singer and I've very little skill,
but when it's my turn to sing I put up a good fight for myself --
because I'm like a mate-pot, I work when they open my mouth.

Since you're choosing what questions you fancy you're choosing the thorniest kind,
but that doesn't worry me so much and I'll answer you in my own way:
the Law is made for everyone but it only rules the _____

The Law is a spider's web -- that's how I see it, though I'm _____
It's not feared by the _____ men, and never by the ones in command --
because the big flies break out of it and it only catches _____ ones.

The Law is like rain -- it can't fall the same everywhere.
The one who gets wet may grumble, but it's a _____ matter --
the Law's like a knife, it doesn't hurt the one who's holding it.

A sword is what people call it and this name suits it well.
The ones who control it, they can see whereabouts they're going to cut --
but it falls on whoever's underneath and cuts without seeing who.

There are plenty of learned Professors and I don't doubt they know a lot.
I'm just a poor rough _____ man and don't understand much of this --
but every day I can see their law is like a funnel, with a big end and a small.

(Translation by C.E. Ward and Katherine Ward Kavanagh)

B) Reread the Counterpoint (chapter 30 from The Return of Martín Fierro – you can read it in Spanish-). Write <u>M</u> next to the idea if Martín Fierro mentions it or <u>N</u> if *El Negro* mentions it.

Destiny / The future

Where Love is born

Quantity

The Song of the Sky

The Law