



TEACHER'S GUIDE TO ADVENTURES FROM THE BOOK OF VIRTUES "HONESTY"

INTRODUCTION

Adventures From The Book of Virtues offers some of the greatest stories of all time, and reinforces character education in an entertaining, fun way. Adapted from The Book of Virtues, the animated stories illustrate character traits such as honesty, friendship, courage, self-discipline and others. Stories are seen through the eyes of two kids, Zach and Annie, who live in a town called Spring Valley. They deal with the same pressures faced by kids everywhere, but they are able to turn to Plato the Buffalo, who lives in a cave high above Spring Valley. Plato has collected some of the world's great stories and when Annie or Zach are faced with a difficult situation in their own lives, Plato and his pals, Aristotle, Socrates and Aurora, know just the right adventure to offer.

GOAL: EMPOWERING KIDS

Children love a good story, and many of these stories have been passed down for hundreds or even thousands of years. Why have these stories endured? Quite simply, they present life's most powerful lessons in entertaining, memorable ways which children are able to apply to their own situations.

GOAL: CHARACTER BUILDING

The stories in this collection reinforce character education: honesty, friendship, perseverance, courage, honor, self-discipline, responsibility, integrity, and work, among others.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS will help kids respond to each story.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES will offer students with specific applications of each character trait.

TEACHING OBJECTIVES:

Students will do the following:

- a. Review and assess each story including identifying the character trait being presented by the main character.
- b. Identify the key "story theme" presented by Zach or Annie, including the challenges they faced in each episode.
- c. Understand how the same "character trait" shown in the stories can be applied to their own lives.

RESULTS:

Students should:

- d. Know basic character traits.
- e. Understand each of the character traits being presented.
- f. Be able to apply the character traits to their own lives.

WELCOME TO PLATO'S PEAK!

SUMMARY, ZACH & ANNIE STORY:

When Zach Nichols breaks one of his father's cameras, he makes up a story to escape blame. However, after hearing three stories about honesty up at Plato's Peak, he sees the "big picture" and decides to tell his father the truth about what happened.

"THE FROG PRINCE" (Brothers Grimm fairy tale)

When a beautiful princess accidentally drops her golden ball into a well, a frog offers to retrieve it...if she will promise to bring him back to the castle and make him her friend. She agrees, but when the frog retrieves her ball, she refuses to honor her promise. When the frog appears at the castle, the King (her father) orders her to fulfill her promise. She does, and when she keeps her promise by befriending the frog, the frog turns into a prince.

"GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE CHERRY TREE" (American legend)

When young George Washington is given an axe by his father, George is told to use the axe responsibly. Instead, George disobeys his father and cuts down a special and prized cherry tree. But when confronted by his father shortly after, George tells the truth and admits his mistake to his father.

"THE INDIAN CINDERELLA" (Canadian Native American tale)

This is a variation of the popular Cinderella story (there are over 700 versions throughout the world). In this version, a beautiful, young Indian woman was the victim of mean, jealous older sisters who disguised themselves, then cut off their sister's hair and scarred her face, drastically disfiguring her. The older sisters then lied to their father, denying their involvement. The strongest Indian warrior in the village, named Strong Wind the Invisible, could only be seen by the virtuous. Because of her honesty, the young scarred woman was able to see Strong Wind. And because of her strength of character, Strong Wind was able to see her beauty 'inside.'

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What lie did Zach tell to his father?
2. What promise did the Princess make to the frog?
3. How does the Princess change during the story? What made her change?
4. Is it always easy to be honest?
5. What did George Washington do when his father discovered the tree was cut down?
6. In the Indian Cinderella, what did Strong Wind mean when he said, "I want someone who is beautiful inside?"
7. What qualities did Zach display when he went back to tell his dad the truth?

ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY #1: Have your children play the role of George Washington's father, and the role of George, and act out the famous Cherry Tree story.

ACTIVITY #2: Ask your children if they have ever told a lie, and have them describe what happened. Ask them to explain the phrase "honesty is the best policy."

ACTIVITY #3: Ask your children to explain the line: "The truth shall set you free."

ACTIVITY #4: Make a chart for the wall where your children can record any experiences she or he had that required honesty. Everyone can record events where they saw each other being honest. At the end of the week, you can review the events and give praise for everyone's honesty.



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HONESTY