



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

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:

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

RESULTS:

Students should:

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

SUMMARY, ZACH & ANNIE STORY:

When Annie's father is called for jury duty, the family vacation is put on hold. Annie is very excited about taking a trip and she doesn't understand why her father can't just postpone his jury duty. Her complaint prompts several stories up at Plato's Peak about citizenship - the civic virtue.

"THE STONE IN THE ROAD" (Greek Myth)

The citizens in this kingdom are complaining about everything that is not right in the kingdom. They expect the king to solve all the problems. But the king wants the citizens themselves to take care of the kingdom's problems, including removing a large stone on the road. He offers a reward to the first person who removes the stone. Most of the citizens pass the stone, complaining about what a nuisance it is. Finally, a young woman tries to move the stone herself, and when she finally succeeds, she discovers a chest of gold placed there by the king.

"THE STORY OF CINCINNATUS" (Roman story)

Cincinnatus was a famous Roman statesman who had now retired to work on his farm. But when warriors from the north threaten the city of Rome, Cincinnatus leaves home to help defend the country. While he is described by many as a hero, he claims he was just doing what all citizens should do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What does the word "citizenship" mean?
2. What was Annie's dad's citizenship responsibility? What would happen if everyone acted the way Annie thought her dad should act?
3. Identify and discuss citizenship responsibilities of kids today.
4. What would happen if everyone took the attitude of the citizens who chose to "walk around the stone in the road" and not try to move the stone?
5. Why did the young woman feel compelled to move the stone?
6. What lesson is the king trying to impart in the "Stone In the Road" story?
7. If you were Cincinnatus, would you have left the comfort of your home and farm to fight against the invaders?
8. What made Cincinnatus do what he did?
9. How did the Romans feel about his behavior?

ACTIVITIES:**ACTIVITY #1:**

Have students make a list (either individually or on the board) of their citizenship responsibilities at their school.

ACTIVITY #2:

Ask students to interview you, the teacher, to reveal experiences of citizenship (jury duty, voting, clean-up the community, etc.).

ACTIVITY #3:

Have students list any famous events of citizenship.



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