



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

### 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 Annie's new "best friend" breaks her promise and chooses someone else to be her partner on a canoe trip, Annie's feelings are hurt, provoking a discussion about the meaning of true friendship.

### "WAUKEWA'S EAGLE" (Native American tale)

A young Native American boy named Waukewa is playing with his bow and arrow when he comes across a wounded eagle. Against his father's better judgment, the boy nurses the eagle back to health, and then returns the bird to the wilderness. The following spring, as Waukewa is fishing a dangerous part of the river, his canoe gets swept over a waterfall. At the last second, the same eagle he had nursed back to health rescues Waukewa.

### "WHY FROG AND SNAKE DON'T PLAY TOGETHER" (African folktale)

A young frog and a young snake do not know they are not supposed to play with each other. Their friendship is ruined when their parents tell them that snakes are supposed to eat frogs.

### "DAMON AND PYTHIAS" (Ancient Roman story)

In this story, Pythias is falsely accused of being disloyal to King Dionysius and is sentenced to die. In order for Pythias to return to his home to bid his family goodbye, his friend Damon remains in Pythias' place with the King. On the date of his return, Pythias is late. Dionysius, believing the professed friendship of the two men to be a sham, sentences Damon to death. But when Pythias returns, King Dionysius is so moved by the commitment of their friendship that he pardons both of the young men.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. Why did Annie feel so bad when her new "friend" abandoned her? Has this ever happened to you?
2. What is the meaning of the phrase "a fair-weather friend?"
3. Describe the feelings Waukewa had for the wounded bird. How did this compare to his father's feelings toward the bird?
4. Is the story about Frog and Snake a happy or sad story? Why?
5. What is the story about Frog and Snake trying to tell us about how we choose our friends? Does it matter what our friends look like, or is it more important to see what is inside a person's heart?
6. Explain how loyalty played a part in the friendship between Damon and Pythias.
7. How did Zach demonstrate that he is a good friend to Annie?

### ACTIVITIES:

**ACTIVITY #1:** Create two sock puppets, one of the Frog, the other of the Snake, and make up a conversation that describes how they each feel about not being able to play together.

**ACTIVITY #2:** Have your children write a one-page story about his or her best friend, answering the question, "What makes a good friend?"



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FRIENDSHIP