



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

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.

WELCOME TO PLATO'S PEAK!

SUMMARY, ZACH & ANNIE STORY:

Zach and Annie collect canned goods for a local shelter. When Plato realizes that the kids are more concerned about getting recognition for their generosity than actually helping people, he spins several tales about the true spirit of generosity.

"ROCKING HORSE LAND" (European folktale)

A young prince named Fredolin was given a magical toy rocking horse, over which he had complete control. But when he realized the horse would never be happy, he released the horse from his control, allowing the horse to return to its own land.

"OLD MR. RABBIT'S THANKSGIVING DINNER" (American folktale)

Old Mr. Rabbit gathers all the neighboring animals together for a big dinner...and unbeknownst to Old Mr. Rabbit, his generous feast turns out to have happened on Thanksgiving Day!

"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI" (American short story by O. Henry)

A young man named Jim and a young woman named Della care deeply for each other. But as Christmas approaches, neither has enough money to buy a present for each other. Della sells her hair to have money to buy a gold watch chain for Jim. Jim sells his watch to buy a hair-bob for Della. It appears to be a sad and ironic turn of events, but O. Henry describes them as the "wisest" – like the Magi themselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What does it mean to be a "generous" person?
2. Give some examples of generosity.
3. What act of generosity did the Prince perform in the "Rocking Horse Land" story?
4. What did the animals do when they saw Old Man Rabbit's feast?
5. Why did it make it perfect for his feast to be on Thanksgiving Day?
6. What do the words "ironic" or "irony" mean?
7. Explain the irony in the story "The Gift of the Magi."
8. Why did O. Henry describe the two young people as giving the "wisest" gift of all?

ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY #1: Create a list on the Board of the most generous events or activities the kids have ever heard of.

ACTIVITY #2: Write a paragraph summarizing the theme of "generosity" in any one of the three stories.



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GENEROSITY