



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

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 needs a 90 on his history test to get an A minus on his report card and just make the school honor roll. And it looks like he's done it...until he realizes his teacher added the points wrong and he only got an 87. If he tells, he'll lose the honor he wanted so badly to win. But Plato's stories help him realize there's a more important kind of honor at stake.

"THE HONEST WOODSMAN" (German tale)

This is the story of a man who chopped wood for a living. His family was poor and his children did not have any fancy toys. One day when the children go to the village, they see several toys in the store windows and they long to have those toys. But the family does not have enough money for any of the things they want. The woodsman continues to work as hard as he can to make more money, but one day he loses his axe in the river. A fairy rises out of the river and offers him a silver and a gold axe. He refuses, saying they are not his. Later, the fairy gives him his own axe and silver and gold, rewarding him for being honorable.

"HONEST ABE" (American legend)

Long before Abraham Lincoln became president, he worked in a country store. Accidentally, he overcharges a customer for something she bought. When he discovers his error, he walks several miles to return the money to the customer, earning the nick name "Honest Abe."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What is honor? Define it.
2. Is there more than one definition of the word "honor?"
3. Do you think Zach should have revealed the teacher's mistake?
4. What made Abe Lincoln walk back to the woman's home to re-pay the woman?
5. Do you think Abe should have ignored his mistake? What would you have done?
6. Why does the woodsman keep working so hard? What are his "values?"
7. How do the woodsman's kids feel about their father?
8. Why did the fairy choose to reward him?
9. What's the "moral" of the Woodsman story?
10. Which of the heroes from these stories was your favorite? Why?

ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY #1: Divide your children into several small groups. Have them develop a presentation to give to the class regarding "honor" in the school.

ACTIVITY #2: Discuss the concept of "cheating." How does this relate to honor?

ACTIVITY #3: Write two paragraphs describing what school would be like if there were no examples of "honor."



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HONOR