



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

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:

When Plato discovers that Zach and Annie have given up guitar and karate lessons, respectively, he takes them on a hike to the top of Plato's Peak. Along the way, Annie and Zach discover various objects, prompting several stories from Plato and Aurora about the importance of "perseverance."

"SCARFACE" (Native American tale)

Scarface, a young Indian brave whose face was badly scarred by a grizzly bear, thought little of his bad scars until he fell in love with the beautiful daughter of the chief of his tribe. His heart ached as other young men mocked his feelings for the chief's daughter, and matters were made worse when she told him the sun god forbade her to marry. Scarface took a journey to meet this Lord of the Sun, a journey that led him through difficult passages and across great distances. But his perseverance was rewarded, as the sun god healed his scars and gave the young Indian his blessing to marry the chief's daughter.

"THE STARS IN THE SKY" (English folktale)

A little girl travels on a long journey to try to climb high enough to count the stars. Finally, reaching the top of a rainbow, she is rewarded with stardust.

"ULYSSES AND THE CYCLOPS" (Greek myth)

In search of provisions as they travel home, Ulysses and his men stop at an island inhabited by the dangerous one-eyed Cyclops. When the Cyclops traps Ulysses and his men in a cave, it appears that the men are doomed. But Ulysses uses his cunning, wits and perseverance to lead his men out of danger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What does the word "perseverance" mean?
2. Why do you think Zach and Annie had given up on their lessons?
3. What makes giving up seem so easy?
4. What makes sticking with something so difficult?
5. What are the rewards of seeing something through to the end?
6. What would have happened if Scarface had not followed the desires of his heart?
7. Which of these three stories did you like the best? Why?
8. In the Ulysses story, how would you describe Ulysses' final idea to escape?
9. What does it mean to you to persevere?
10. Have you ever had to get something finished even though you didn't want to finish it, or you didn't think you could finish? How did it feel when you finally completed the task?

ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY #1: Tell your children a story of the most difficult task you had to complete, one that you wanted to quit, but instead persevered until you finished.

ACTIVITY #2: Have your children write a story about the most difficult task they have ever had to do, including how they did or did not "persevere" to get it done.



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PERSEVERANCE