



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

### 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:

Annie promises to deliver her mother's cakes on her new bicycle, but she is tempted by Zach's challenge to a bike race; the resulting accident wrecks her new bike as well as the cakes. When Annie blames Zach for the accident, Plato spins several tales about the nature of "responsibility."

#### "ICARUS AND DAEDELUS" (Greek myth)

Daedelus was a legendary Greek craftsman who was able to design and build nearly anything. He created the famous labyrinth that kept the monstrous Minotaur imprisoned. According to the Greek myth, King Minos was angry with Daedelus after Theseus was not only able to slay the Minotaur, but escape from the labyrinth. So he imprisoned Daedelus and his son, Icarus. Locked in a prison tower, Daedelus realizes that the only chance of escape is by way of flight. Daedelus fashions feathered wings for his son and himself, affixed by wax. It works, but Daedelus warns his son not to fly too close to the sun, fearing the heat would melt the wax. In his excitement, Icarus disobeys his father and flies too close to the sun, melting his wings and sending Icarus into the sea.

#### "KING ALFRED AND CAKES" (English legend)

King Alfred is a 9th century king of England who temporarily abandons his troops during a battle they were losing. Taking refuge in a peasant's cottage, King Alfred is asked to watch over the peasant's cakes. So pre-occupied is Alfred with his own problems, that he let the cakes burn. The peasant, unaware that he is the king, admonishes him for failing to fulfill his responsibility. His lesson learned, King Alfred returns to his troops and leads them to victory, becoming the only English king ever to be called "Great."

#### "THE CHEST OF BROKEN GLASS" (folktale, origin unknown)

An elderly woman, seemingly abandoned by her own family, tricks her children into returning home to see her new wealth. But when she dies, they discover what she really meant by wealth.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

1. What does the word "responsibility" mean?
2. How did Annie fail to live up to her responsibility?
3. What should Annie have done with her assignment?
4. What did Daedelus plan to do with the feather wings?
5. What did he tell his son, Icarus?
6. What are your responsibilities?
7. What was the old lady trying to prove by tricking her children into returning home?

### ACTIVITIES:

**ACTIVITY #1:** Have students make a list of their responsibilities.

**ACTIVITY #2:** Tell your children of a time when you failed to fulfill your responsibility. What happened?

**ACTIVITY #3:** Role-play an interview with King Alfred after his visit to the peasant's house.



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RESPONSIBILITY