



School of the Nations Character Development Storybook Series

HIDDEN GEMS is a new storybook series created to guide the moral development of young children. These original stories, sensitively told and simply illustrated, offer an enlightened way to help children from all backgrounds appreciate the value of good character and behavior. Designed to be read and retold to the children many times they represent a valuable resource for teachers, parents, and anyone concerned with the moral and spiritual education of children.

Developed and tested for many years in the SCHOOL OF THE NATIONS, an innovative international school located in Macau, China these stories have proven popular with children of 4 to 8+ years of age. The children's enjoyment and benefit will increase when you discuss with them the issues and behaviors contained in the stories. In addition these shared moments of enjoyable reflection will strengthen the bonds of love and affection between you and your children.

STORIES IN THE HIDDEN GEMS SERIES:

In **THE SECRET** a small drop of water and the many plants she tries to help discover the value and power of unity.

In **THE TRAIN THAT WOULD NOT STAY ON THE TRACKS** a little train finds how obedience and submission to the moral principles guiding our lives bring greater rewards and happiness.

In **THE THREE LITTLE FISH** our heroes experience first hand the trials and tribulations that befall us when we swim beyond the boundaries of the standards that protect us.

In **THE HELPFUL FRIENDS** two grandmotherly figures share the joy they feel when helping and serving others.

In **THE LION AND THE MOSQUITOES** a kindly lion and a colony of mosquitoes exercise patience, good will and consultation to find an acceptable solution to a very difficult problem.

In **THE CROWN** two little girls learn to value good character above wealth and status.

Appropriate stories and narratives illustrate the application of spiritual qualities and principles in our lives. With the help of such stories and their imagination, children can gain valuable insights, which will guide them in the formation of their behavior and character. To obtain the full value of these stories you may:

- Ask questions that require your children to anticipate what will happen next in the story.
- Ask questions about the possible outcomes of alternative actions and behaviors.
- Ask questions about the feelings of the various characters at different moments in the story.
- Ask your children to retell the story in parts or in its entirety.
- Assist your children to make simple props and dramatize the story for the enjoyment of their friends and parents.

For more ideas about how to use these stories please refer to the Hidden Gems Character Development curriculum Level 3.