

# A Word to The Wise is Sufficient

A Lesson within a Story  
from the Series,  
*Learning to Be Wise*



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A Word to The Wise is Sufficient  
A Lesson within a Story from the Series, Learning to Be Wise  
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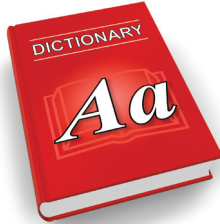
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# Understanding Aphorisms (af' o riz' ums)



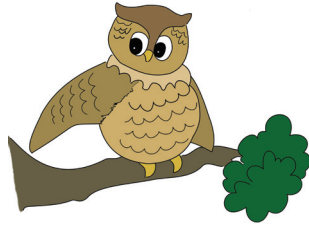
Each story in the *Learning to Be Wise* series is based on an aphorism. Therefore, it's important to understand what an aphorism is.

An aphorism is a brief statement of principle or a simple statement of truth. Years ago, aphorisms were used by grownups to teach children about life. They were also helpful in developing values and instilling common sense in youngsters. People felt that if children learned the lessons contained in aphorisms, there was a good possibility they would develop wisdom as a result.

These principles or statements were usually referred to simply as “old sayings.” People learned aphorisms as children, usually from parents and grandparents. Later on, when these children became parents themselves, they used the same aphorisms to teach their own children. Eventually, their children passed them on yet again.

Today, most children have never heard of aphorisms. And yet, the lessons learned and wisdom acquired through aphorisms continue to be valuable. It's my hope that the stories will help keep these wonderful old sayings a part of our daily lives.

The Author



## Meet Little Wise Guy

You must have noticed the cute little owl appearing on the cover and in other places within the story. He was created to be a symbol for all of the *Learning to Be Wise* books because everybody knows that owls are smart. And this owl is smart, too.

One day I visited a third grade classroom, where the kids were reading my very first book. One of them asked what the owl's name was, and I had to admit I hadn't named it. Right then, I decided to have a contest to find a name for the owl.

First, I asked the children to draw an owl. When they had finished, I asked each child to show his drawing to the class. Then, I asked the children to decide which owl they liked best. Once they decided, I asked the artist of that drawing to name the owl. And that's how Little Wise Guy got his name.

Little Wise Guy appears in each of the books. He is there to remind readers that the stories are meant

to help children. If they learn the lesson within each story, children will be smarter about life. As a result, life should be easier for them.

The Author