

## What is Wisdom?

Wisdom comes from an Anglo-Saxon word combining "wis" (understanding truth) and "dom" (judgment). It is more than learning facts or being smart. It is knowing what is right and doing it.

Wisdom seeks to apply all the character qualities in balance, so that one isn't too extreme in any of them. A wise person observes and learns truth from wise people around him, from heroes of history, even from nature. But he also tries to build those truths into his daily actions.

A wise person is humble enough to receive the direction and advice of others, but he chooses wise people to give him that advice. He is willing to admit and learn from his mistakes. He avoids friends who are foolish and who choose unwise actions.

**"Wisdom"**  
vs. Foolishness

"Making practical applications of truth in daily decisions."

### I will:

- listen to my parents and teachers.
- learn from correction.
- choose my friends carefully.
- remember that there are consequences to all my actions.
- ask, "What is the right thing to do?"

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## Deference in Nature

### The Great Horned Owl



The movement of something brown caught the eye of the stranger as he journeyed down the trail. Moving closer, he realized it was an owl. Realizing the owl was in trouble the man removed his coat and using all his strength, quickly wrapped the owl up and transported it to a nearby wildlife refuge center. The veterinarian quickly assessed that the owl had mistaken a fishing lure for food and the hook had become lodged in its beak and, through his struggle, the lure had also become lodged in its wing, pinning the owl's head to its wing.

Four things help both owls and people make right choices. Let's see what we can learn from the owl's mistake.

**THE EYES** - Owls make choices based on what they see. Did that lure really look like a real fish? Owl's eyes are so huge they can't move in their sockets. That's why owls turn their heads to look in different directions. Being able to turn his head in almost a complete circle gives the owl a new perspective in each new position. Owls also see clearly in the dark. Their eyes gather enough light to function well when no one else can see. Wise people learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others in order to see clearly when things otherwise don't make sense.

**THE EARS** - Owls make choices based on what they hear. Did that lure really sound like a fish? The ears of a Great Horned Owl are located on the sides of its head, one up high and the other down low. This allows the owl to hear in three dimensions-up and down, left and right, near and far. Wise choices depend on our ability to listen, too. We must learn from our teachers and hear the wise counsel of our parents. We must not ignore their correction, but learn from our mistakes so we can avoid making them again.

**THE WINGS** - Owls are also careful how they fly. Great Horned Owls need every advantage when hunting. Silent flight allows them to approach and surprise their prey. Wise decision makers know that every action has a consequence; therefore they surround themselves with good friends who help them make wise decisions.

**THE MOUTH** - Owls control what goes into their mouths. Swallowing their food whole, they stay away from things that might hurt them. Wise people also watch what goes in and out of their mouths. They stay away from things that might harm themselves or others. They choose their words carefully, and unless they have something good or constructive to say, they keep their mouths shut.

Wrong choices leave permanent damage. Wise people live like the owl, seeing and hearing as much as possible, so they know what they should do and say. Because every choice has a consequence, wise people strive to make right choices.

story by Kelly Sorge

Concept by: [Character First](#)

## Memory Work

I will listen to my parents,  
And I'll hear my teachers,  
too.

I'll remember there's a  
consequence  
To everything I do.

I will learn from their  
correction,  
And I'll choose my friends  
with care,  
I will stay away from  
foolishness  
That only brings a snare.

To live a life of character,  
Commitment is the key.  
When things get tough, I'll  
prove to you  
That you can count on me!

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## What Does Wisdom Look Like?

- ~choosing friends who have good character
- ~thinking of the consequences when we choose an action
- ~admitting and learning from our mistakes
- ~getting advice from older, wise people of good character
- ~choosing an action because it is the right thing to do.
- ~balancing the character qualities (for example, showing deference to another, but not at the expense of doing what is right).



## Owl Card

Why not make a "thank you" card to send to someone who has given you wisdom in the past?

1. Fold a piece of brightly colored construction paper in half, dividing the long side so that it forms a card.
2. Make a big oval on the inside of the card to form the owl's body. Use either torn construction paper, or color the owl's body brown. Be sure to have the fold in the center of the body. Make a smaller oval for the head.
3. Draw and color brown or tear a brown piece of construction paper to form 2 wings.
4. Draw 2 feet for the owl and 2 tufts of feathers that look like ears.
5. Cut the corner of an envelope 1 inch square and color it black. Glue it in the fold of the paper to form a beak.
6. Draw or cut out eyes and glue them onto the head.
7. Draw a branch, net leaves, or anything else you desire for background.
8. Write on the front of the card: "Thank you for teaching me wisdom!"

## Analogy Game

(Seeing analogies in nature and in the world around us helps us think clearly and gain wisdom.)

Choose the word that fits in the blank. The answers can be found on the coloring page.

Ex. "car: (is to) road as train: (is to) track"

Try these:

- Cat : mouse as robin : \_\_\_\_\_
- Ham : eggs as peanut butter : \_\_\_\_\_
- Duck : duckling as cow : \_\_\_\_\_
- field : tractor as dress : \_\_\_\_\_
- hamburger : chef as suit : \_\_\_\_\_