

Using The Gracie Series in Classrooms, Homeschools, and at Home

Professional Development Handout 5 of 6

The Gracie Series is designed to be flexible. Adults do not have to use every activity every time. The story and printables can be adapted to the setting, group size, learning goal, and time available.

Key Takeaways

- In a classroom, a story can support whole-group instruction, small-group discussion, literacy centers, morning meetings, or character education.
- In a homeschool, one story can become a short integrated lesson combining literacy, discussion, writing, and life skills.
- At home, parents, grandparents, and caregivers can use a story as a natural starting point for conversation rather than a formal lesson.
- Libraries, counseling settings, and after-school programs can use selected stories to support discussion, reflection, and social learning.
- Consistency matters more than complexity. A short story followed by one thoughtful question can still create meaningful learning.

Putting It Into Practice

Whole group	Watch together, ask 2-3 discussion questions, then choose one shared reflection.
Small group	Use the discussion sheet and encourage each child to contribute an idea or connection.
Independent	Pair the story with the Complete-the-Sentence or Story Reflection Sheet.
Homeschool	Combine the story, discussion, written response, and a real-life extension into one lesson.
Family learning	Watch together and use one question at dinner, bedtime, or another relaxed family moment.

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Reflection & Discussion

1. Which setting or format best matches how you would use The Gracie Series?

2. What would a 10-minute Gracie lesson look like in your setting?

3. When would a full set of activities be useful, and when would one activity be enough?

4. How could families and educators reinforce the same lesson without making the experience feel repetitive?

My Next Step

Choose one implementation format above. Outline exactly how you would use one story in 10-20 minutes with the children you serve.

Continue Learning: Watch the complete Professional Development series and explore the free Gracie stories and printable activities at GraceLaJoy.com/worksheets.