Overview
Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students is a list of recommended resources to help teach students about ethical decision-making. Developed with content summaries, corresponding ethical principles, and select guides for instructor education, the annotated list is a foundational component of ethical education that makes learning both informative and engaging.

This resource is available at no cost to all educators thanks to the generous support of the Daniels Fund, a foundation in Colorado supporting principle-based ethics education. Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students was developed as part of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative High School Program.

Copyright Disclaimer
Please be aware that copyright-protected movies require advance permission before being shown in the classroom. The following resource from Movie Licensing USA, the licensing firm for Disney, provides information regarding copyright compliance and public performances: https://www.swank.com/k-12-schools/copyright/.

Many schools already pay for proper licensing, so we encourage educators to reach out to knowledgeable parties in the school, such as librarians, technology directors, or other school administrators, before showing copyright-protected movies in the classroom.

A Note Regarding Content Warnings
Given the complex nature of ethics, many of the resources in this list examine thought-provoking and often difficult topics. While conversation surrounding these challenging topics is encouraged, we recognize that this discussion is best facilitated when readers, listeners, or viewers can prepare themselves to engage (or, possibly, disengage) with sensitive content ahead of time. As much as possible, the descriptions included in this document provide summaries of the topics and themes explored in each resource so instructors can make the best selections for students and their wellbeing. If potentially sensitive content is suspected to be in a given resource, but that resource’s description does not include mention of it, then a “Content Warning” disclaimer has been added to that annotation.

Please note: While we have taken care to anticipate sensitive content in each resource, this is not an exhaustive list. Instructors should review any resource prior to classroom use to ensure it is appropriate for students and their needs.

Mental Health Resources
On a related note, we encourage instructors to use or provide access to any of the following links, which might be helpful as students navigate the various titles and their respective topics included on this list:

- Classroom Mental Health
- Mental Health First Aid USA
Suggestions for Use

Educators may choose to use Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students in a number of ways and for diverse purposes. To help educators determine the best use of these books and movies, we’ve developed suggestions for use according to student level, subject area, and environment.

Student Level

While the title of this resource references high school students in particular, Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students can be used with learners of various grade levels and abilities. Younger students, or those just beginning to learn about ethics and ethical decision-making, may benefit from resources with simple, straightforward plot lines. These resources include movies with ratings of G or PG, and books with ratings of Young Adult (YA) without content warnings.

Educators working with students that already have an average or foundational understanding of ethics might look for YA books and movies with PG-13 ratings, as these plot lines and themes are more sophisticated. Older students, or those with deeper knowledge of and experience with ethics and ethical decision-making, may benefit from advanced resources with mature content and themes, such as R-rated movies and books marked for adults.

Please note: Educators should contact students’ families/guardians before showing R-rated movies or reading books with adult content. These mature resources often contain substantive dilemmas that lend themselves well to a more advanced discussion regarding ethics, but they are not for all students.

Subject Area

Educators will find it helpful to integrate books and movies about ethics in a variety of different subject areas to promote discussion and critical thinking.

For example, History/Social Studies educators might find the biographies and documentaries on this list to be especially relevant to their classes, and they might select resources like the following:

- Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam (book)
- An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States (book)
- Selma (movie)

Science teachers may use both fiction and non-fiction resources to encourage relevant discussion for their classes. Science-focused resources include the following:

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (book)
- Exo (book)
- Hidden Figures (movie)
English Language Arts educators might be particularly interested in using books with a movie adaptation, as the examination of both components allows for discussion and analysis of storytelling and narrative strategies. Resources on this list that have both a book and movie version include the following:

- The Outsiders
- Stargirl
- My Sister’s Keeper

Environment

The above suggestions for use are relevant for classroom educators, but Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students can be used in a variety of contexts, such as by student organizations, in after-school programs, as part of a leadership camp, etc. If educators/facilitators are limited in time, they might find movies on this list to be more appropriate. Those with more time or more consistent interactions with students/youth, such as through advisory periods, might have space to work through a novel or series.

Educators/facilitators of large groups might find that relatively simple resources – such as those marked G/PG and YA – are best, especially if students/youth aren’t well-acquainted. On the other hand, educators/facilitators of smaller groups might take advantage of the more intimate setting to explore more challenging topics and themes within Adult books and PG-13/R-rated movies.

Ethics Worksheet

A worksheet is provided on the next page to help facilitate exploration of ethics and ethical decision making. This worksheet asks students to consider a series of ethics-related questions and can be used with any resource from Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students.

Additional Resources

As part of our work with the Daniels Fund, we offer additional ethics materials at no cost:

- **70+ Lesson Modules.** Each LAP module focuses on skills students need for success in college and the workplace and includes a student handout, a comprehensive discussion guide, assessments with descriptive keys, student activities, and more.

- **Ethics Boot Camp.** With 10 hours of ethics activities that can be used in a variety of settings, this resource introduces students to principles-based ethics, ethical decision-making, recognizing ethical dilemmas, and the specific ethical principles laid out by the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative.

- **Ethical Principles Video Series.** This resource explores each ethical principle, giving students an understanding of what the principle means, its supporting traits, how it plays out in real-world examples, and how students can use it in their own lives.

- **Ethical Leadership Course Package.** This resource includes one- and two-semester course guide options; 58 LAP modules focused on ethics, ethical leadership, and ethics in the workplace; and a free online end-of-course assessment with digital badging capabilities.

- **Ethical Dilemmas in the Workplace Video Series.** Young professionals open up about the ethical dilemmas they have encountered in this video series available on our YouTube channel.

To access these free materials and integrate ethics into your classroom, visit our Ethics Education page: [www.mbaresearch.org/Ethics](http://www.mbaresearch.org/Ethics).
ETHICS IN ACTION

Name: ____________________________

Directions: Your instructor will provide a book or movie for the class to read/watch through an ethics lens. As you read/watch each book or movie, respond to the following questions about ethics and ethical decision-making. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

• What is the ethical dilemma in this book/movie? Is there more than one? What are they?

• Which ethical principles play a role in the book/movie? Mark all that apply.
  o Integrity
  o Trust
  o Accountability
  o Transparency
  o Fairness
  o Respect
  o Rule of Law
  o Viability

• Who is demonstrating the above ethical principles? Who is not? In what way(s)?

• Which ethical principle has the most impact in the plot of the book/movie, and why?

• In your opinion, who acted most ethically? Who acted least ethically? Explain your reasoning.