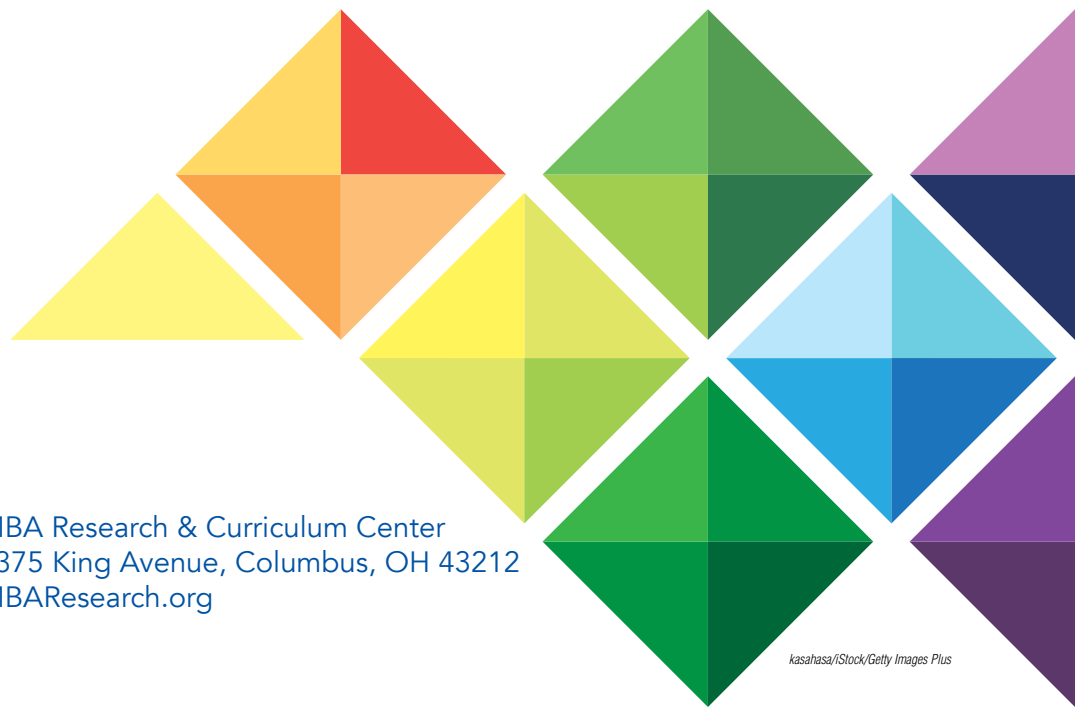




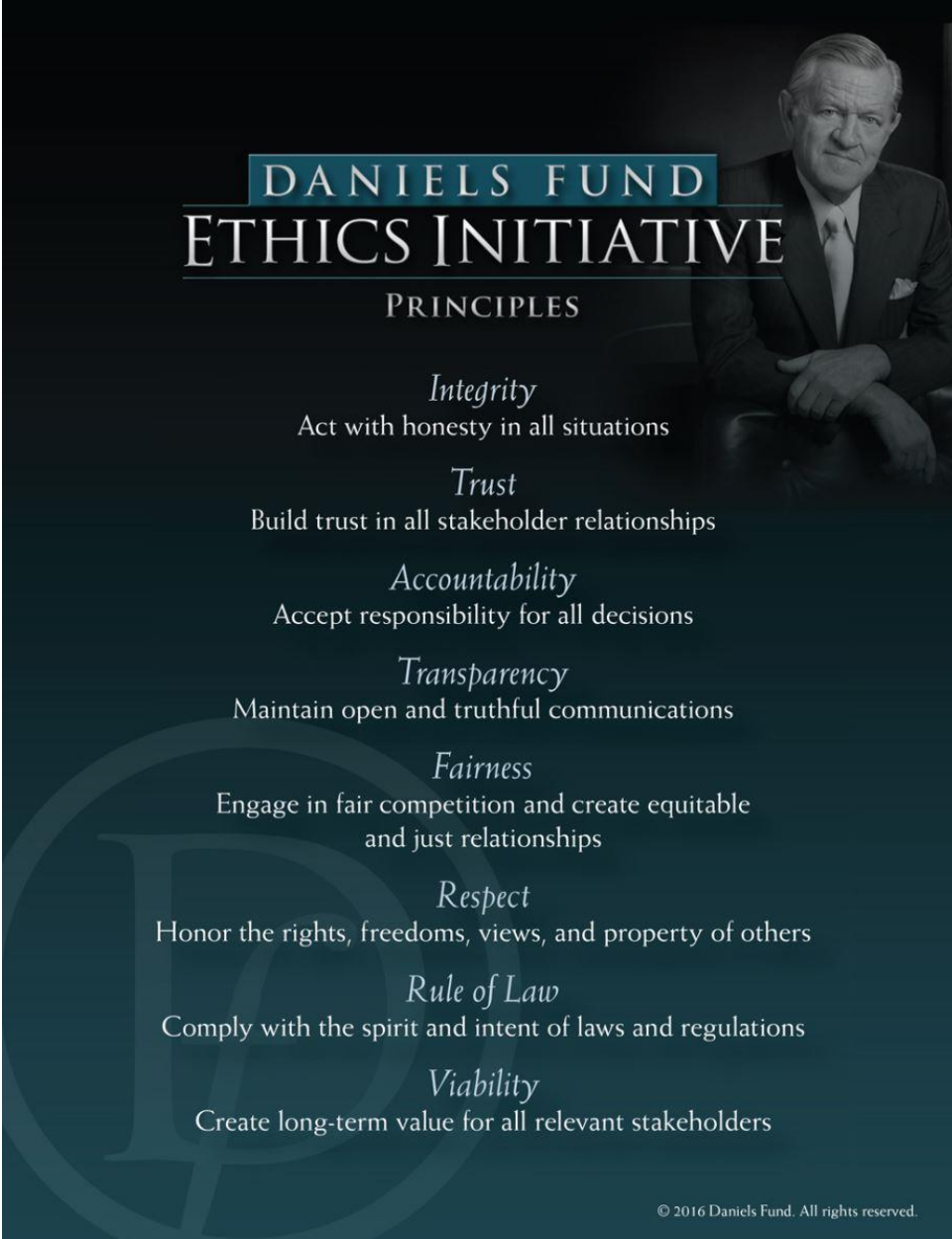
# Ethics Books & Movies

## for High School Students

### 2021



## Ethics Books & Movies for High School Students



**DANIELS FUND**  
**ETHICS INITIATIVE**  
PRINCIPLES

*Integrity*  
Act with honesty in all situations

*Trust*  
Build trust in all stakeholder relationships

*Accountability*  
Accept responsibility for all decisions

*Transparency*  
Maintain open and truthful communications

*Fairness*  
Engage in fair competition and create equitable  
and just relationships

*Respect*  
Honor the rights, freedoms, views, and property of others

*Rule of Law*  
Comply with the spirit and intent of laws and regulations

*Viability*  
Create long-term value for all relevant stakeholders

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## 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](#)
- [Mental Health and Learning Resources for Kids and Teens](#)

- [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#)
- [National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)
- [Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine \(SAHM\)](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)

## 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) (p. 10)
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* (book) (p. 8)
- *Selma* (movie) (p. 23)

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) (p. 9)
- *Exo* (book) (p. 15)
- *Hidden Figures* (movie) (p. 24)

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 (book: p. 11 | movie: p. 29)
- Stargirl (book: p. 20 | movie: p. 30)
- My Sister's Keeper (book: p. 22 | movie: p. 31)

### **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.

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## 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.
  - Integrity
  - Trust
  - Accountability
  - Transparency
  - Fairness
  - Respect
  - Rule of Law
  - 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.

## 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](#):





## Nonfiction Books

### ***Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice* by Bryan Stevenson**

2018 | Nonfiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “In this very personal work—adapted from the original #1 bestseller... acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom. Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society—the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.”

➔ Adapted from [original book](#) titled *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (2014)

➔ Movie version is also on this list (p. 21)

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, Viability*

### ***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

1956 | Nonfiction/Memoir | Grades 9-12

From [Goodreads](#): “Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Elie Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were taken from their home in 1944 to Auschwitz concentration camp, and then to Buchenwald. *Night* is the terrifying record of Elie Wiesel's memories of the death of his family, the death of his own innocence, and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute evil of man...[it is his] testimony to what happened in the camps and of his unforgettable message that this horror must simply never be allowed to happen again.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### ***The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank**

1947 | Memoir / Nonfiction | Ages 14-17

From [Goodreads](#): “In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the “Secret Annexe” of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and surprisingly humorous, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

***The Far Away Brothers (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Lauren Markham**

2019 | Nonfiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Ernesto and Raul Flores are identical twins, used to being mistaken for each other. As seventeen-year-olds living in rural El Salvador, they think the United States is just a far-off dream—it's too risky, too expensive to start a life there. But when Ernesto ends up on the wrong side of MS-13, one of El Salvador's brutal gangs, he flees the country for his own safety. Raul, fearing that he will be mistaken for his brother, follows close behind. Running from one danger to the next, the Flores twins make the harrowing journey north, crossing the Rio Grande and the Texas desert only to fall into the hands of immigration authorities. When they finally make it to the custody of their older brother in Oakland, California, the difficulties don't end... With only each other for support, they begin the process of carving out a life for themselves, one full of hope and possibility. Adapted for young adults from the award-winning adult edition, *The Far Away Brothers* is the inspiring true story of two teens making their way in America, a personal look at U.S. immigration policy, and a powerful account of contemporary immigration.”

➔ Adapted from [original book](#) titled *The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life* (2017)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law*

***Turning 15 On the Road to Freedom* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery**

2015 | Nonfiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed nine times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history. Straightforward and inspiring, this beautifully illustrated memoir brings readers into the middle of the Civil Rights Movement, complementing Common Core classroom learning and bringing history alive for young readers.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz**

2014 | Nonfiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “The first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

***I am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai**

2012 | Nonfiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate. *I Am Malala* is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, Viability*

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

2010 | Nonfiction | Adult | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family — past and present — is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

***Making Our Way Home* by Blair Imani**

2020 | Nonfiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “A powerful illustrated history of the Great Migration and its sweeping impact on Black and American culture, from Reconstruction to the rise of hip hop. Over the course of six decades, an unprecedented wave of Black Americans left the South and spread across the nation in search of a better life—a migration that sparked stunning demographic and cultural changes in twentieth-century America. Through gripping and accessible historical narrative paired with illustrations, author and activist Blair Imani examines the largely overlooked impact of The Great Migration and how it affected—and continues to affect—Black identity and America as a whole. *Making Our Way Home* explores issues like voting rights, domestic terrorism, discrimination, and segregation alongside the flourishing of arts and culture, activism, and civil rights.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

***Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer***

2009 | Nonfiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Jonathan Safran Foer spent much of his life oscillating between enthusiastic carnivore and occasional vegetarian. Once he started a family, the moral dimensions of food became increasingly important. Faced with the prospect of being unable to explain why we eat some animals and not others, Foer set out to explore the origins of many eating traditions and the fictions involved with creating them. Traveling to the darkest corners of our dining habits, Foer raises the unspoken question behind every fish we eat, every chicken we fry, and every burger we grill.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Respect, Viability*

***Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam by Elizabeth Partridge***

2018 | Nonfiction | Young Adult

From [this article](#): “Boots On The Ground is a chronological examination of the Vietnam War as it unfolded, and also framed by the story of how the Vietnam Memorial in Washington came about. It is a meditation on how a nation remembers war and why memory is so fraught. The special sauce here is a convention that many adult writers use. Partridge shows the war, as it happened, through the eyes of eight characters. These characters include soldiers on the ground, a nurse, a refugee, and political leaders. The core characters in the book are all still alive today. Partridge did a lot of original reporting to give her readers these varied perspectives. The fact that the characters in Partridge’s account are still walking around among us—and still grappling with the legacies of the Vietnam War—makes it easier for this history to penetrate for young people.”

*Ethical Principles: Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

***Symphony for the City of the Dead by MT Anderson***

2015 | Nonfiction | Young Adult

From [this article](#): “Symphony for the City of the Dead is, in brief, the story of the Russian composer Dimitri Shostakovich and his Seventh Symphony, which he composed during the 444-day Siege of Leningrad by Hitler’s armies during World War Two. Estimates are that a million people died during the siege. Anderson’s book is about that piece of music and its significance, but it’s also about Leningrad and Russia. Overlaid on all of that, it’s also almost an espionage caper—with the microfilm holding the Seventh Symphony score spirited out of Russia and following an unbelievably byzantine route that brought it to the United States. The plan was to perform the symphony as a way of drumming up support for Russia during World War Two.”

➔ [Here](#) is a Teacher’s Resource for this book.

*Ethical Principles: Accountability, Trust, Respect*

## Fiction Books

### ***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton**

1967 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warning: suicide

From [Goodreads](#): “The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers—until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser.”

→ Movie version is also on this list (p. 25)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### ***The Giver* by Lois Lowry**

1993 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind this fragile community.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Rule of Law, Viability*

### ***The Sin Eater's Daughter* by Melina Salisbury**

2015 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Sixteen-year-old Twylla lives in the castle. But although she's engaged to the prince, no one speaks to her. No one even looks at her. Because Twylla isn't a member of the court. She's the executioner. So each week, she's taken to the prison and forced to lay her hands on those accused of treason. No one will ever love her. Who could care for a girl with murder in her veins? But then a new guard arrives, a boy whose playful smile belies his deadly swordsmanship. Yet a treasonous romance is the least of Twylla's problems. The queen has a plan to destroy her enemies—a plan that requires an unthinkable sacrifice. Will Twylla do what it takes to protect her kingdom? Or will she abandon her duty in favor of a doomed love?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Rule of Law, Viability*

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

2005 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, Viability*

**Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

1954 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued. Labeled a parable, an allegory, a myth, a morality tale, a parody, a political treatise, even a vision of the apocalypse, Lord of the Flies is perhaps our most memorable novel about ‘the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart.’”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo**

2015 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Ketterdam: a bustling hub of international trade where anything can be had for the right price—and no one knows that better than criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker. Kaz is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams. But he can’t pull it off alone...Kaz’s crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don’t kill each other first.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Respect, Viability*

**Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein**

2012 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Oct. 11th, 1943—A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution... Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage and failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy? Harrowing and beautifully written, Elizabeth Wein creates a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that shows just how far true friends will go to save each other.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Viability*

**Blackwater by Eve Bunting**

1999 | Fiction | Grades 6-8

From [GoodReads](#): “Thirteen-year-old Brodie Lynch is ready for the perfect summer along the Blackwater River. But then his troubled cousin Alex comes to visit. A harmless prank goes too far, and in the end one teen is drowned and another is missing. Will Brodie face the truth of these tragic events, or will he hide behind the lies created to protect him?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Rule of Law*

**Some Girls Are by Courtney Summers**

2010 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [Barnes & Noble](#): “Regina is a pitiless mean girl at the top of her high school’s food chain—until she puts her trust in the wrong person following a rape attempt by her best friend’s boyfriend. Her friends turn on her, their abuse rapidly escalates, and the only people willing to put a hand out to help are two former victims of her clique’s mindlessly cruel scorched-earth campaigns. Regina endures the growing pains of her stunted conscience, and balancing righteous anger with the knowledge that she’s getting exactly what she once dished out.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

**To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

1960 | Fiction | Grades 9-12

From [GoodReads](#): “The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it...Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, To Kill A Mockingbird takes readers to the roots of human behavior — to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos... this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal.”

➔ Also available as a [graphic novel](#) by Harper Lee & Fred Fordham (adapter/illustrator)

➔ Movie version is also on this list (p. 24)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law*

**Trash by Andy Mulligan**

2010 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “In an unnamed Third World country, in the not-so-distant future, three “dumpsite boys” make a living picking through the mountains of garbage on the outskirts of a large city. One unlucky-lucky day, Raphael finds something very special and very mysterious. So mysterious that he decides to keep it, even when the city police offer a handsome reward for its return. That decision brings with it terrifying consequences, and soon the dumpsite boys must use all of their cunning and courage to stay ahead of their pursuers. It’s up to Raphael, Gardo, and Rat—boys who have no education, no parents, no homes, and no money—to solve the mystery and right a terrible wrong.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law*

**Feed by M.T. Anderson**

2002 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Barnes & Noble](#): “Feed [explores] a callow young man’s first brush with complexity in any form, moral or otherwise. It’s hilarious and terrifying, heart-lifting and dark, set in a future world where everyone has a feed installed in their heads that makes life a constant multimedia assault. Titus is a carefree kid who loves nothing more than his feed and trying to outrun boredom with his overstimulated friends, until a hacking incident takes him offline and bonds him to Violet, a fellow victim with the unheard-of desire to fight the feed.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**The Battle of Jericho by Sharon M. Draper**

2003 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “Sixteen-year-old Jericho is psyched when he and his cousin and best friend, Josh, are invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, the oldest and most exclusive club in school. But as the secret initiation rites grow increasingly humiliating and force Jericho to make painful choices, he starts to question whether membership in the Warriors of Distinction is worth it. How far will he have to go to wear the cool black silk Warriors jacket? How high a price will he have to pay to belong? The answers are devastating beyond Jericho's imagination.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*



**Exo by Fonda Lee**

2017 | Science Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “It’s been a century of peace since Earth became a colony of an alien race with far reaches into the galaxy. Some die-hard extremists still oppose alien rule on Earth, but Donovan Reyes isn’t one of them. His dad holds the prestigious position of Prime Liaison in the collaborationist government, and Donovan’s high social standing along with his exocel (a remarkable alien technology fused to his body) guarantee him a bright future in the security forces. That is, until a routine patrol goes awry and Donovan’s abducted by the human revolutionary group Sapience, determined to end alien control. When Sapience realizes whose son Donovan is, they think they’ve found the ultimate bargaining chip. But the Prime Liaison doesn’t negotiate with terrorists, not even for his own son. Left in the hands of terrorists who have more uses for him dead than alive, the fate of Earth rests on Donovan’s survival.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Cross Fire by Fonda Lee (Sequel)**

2018 | Science Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Earth's century of peace as a colony of an alien race has been shattered. As the alien-run government navigates peace talks with the human terrorist group Sapience, Donovan tries to put his life back together and return to his duty as a member of the security forces. But a new order comes from the alien home planet: withdraw...As word of the withdrawal spreads through the galaxy, suddenly Earth becomes vulnerable to a takeover from other aliens races...As a galactic invasion threatens, Donovan realizes that Sapience holds the key that could stop the pending war. Yet in order to save humankind, all species on Earth will have to work together, and Donovan might just have to make the ultimate sacrifice to convince them.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Viability*

**Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg**

2000 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “Connor is sure his best friend, Branwell, couldn't have hurt Branwell's baby half sister, Nikki. But Nikki lies in a coma, and Branwell is in a juvenile behavioral center, suspected of a horrible crime and unable to utter the words to tell what really happened. Connor is the only one who might be able to break through Branwell's wall of silence. But how can he prove Branwell didn't commit the unspeakable act of which he's accused—when Branwell can't speak for himself?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

***I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson**

2014 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warnings: homophobia, sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “At first, Jude and her twin brother Noah are inseparable. Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude wears red-red lipstick, cliff-dives, and does all the talking for both of them. Years later, they are barely speaking. Something has happened to change the twins in different yet equally devastating ways . . . but then Jude meets an intriguing, irresistible boy and a mysterious new mentor. The early years are Noah's to tell; the later years are Jude's. But they each have only half the story, and if they can only find their way back to one another, they'll have a chance to remake their world. This radiant, award-winning novel from the acclaimed author of *The Sky Is Everywhere* will leave you breathless and teary and laughing—often all at once.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

***The Lost Girl* by Sangu Mandanna**

2012 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Eva’s life is not her own. She is a creation, an abomination—an echo. Made by the Weavers as a copy of someone else, she is expected to replace a girl named Amarra, her “other,” if she ever died... But fifteen years of studying never prepared her for this. Now she must abandon everything she’s ever known—the guardians who raised her, the boy she’s forbidden to love—to move to India and convince the world that Amarra is still alive... when Eva is unexpectedly dealt a fatal blow that will change her existence forever, she is forced to choose: Stay and live out her years as a copy or leave and risk it all for the freedom to be an original. To be Eva.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Respect, Viability*

***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone**

2017 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Dear Justyce by Nic Stone (Sequel)**

2020 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “In the stunning and hard-hitting sequel to the New York Times bestseller *Dear Martin*, incarcerated teen Quan writes letters to Justyce about his experiences in the American prison system. Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial. Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, the protagonist of *Dear Martin*, Quan's story unravels. From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, Nic Stone's newest novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against African American boys and minorities in the American justice system.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Running Loose by Chris Crutcher**

1983 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Louie Banks has it made. He's got a starting spot on the football team, good friends, and a smart, beautiful girlfriend who loves him as much as he loves her. Early in the fall, he sees all his ideas of fair play go up in smoke; by spring, what he cares about most has been destroyed. How can Louie keep going when he's lost everything?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith**

2009 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Ida Mae Jones dreams of flight. Her daddy was a pilot and being black didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. But her daddy's gone now, and being a woman, and being black, are two strikes against her. When America enters the war with Germany and Japan, the Army creates the WASP, the Women Airforce Service Pilots—and Ida suddenly sees a way to fly as well as do something significant to help her brother stationed in the Pacific. But even the WASP won't accept her as a black woman, forcing Ida Mae to make a difficult choice of “passing,” of pretending to be white to be accepted into the program. Hiding one's racial heritage, denying one's family, denying one's self is a heavy burden. And while Ida Mae chases her dream, she must also decide who it is she really wants to be.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Glory O'Brien's History of the Future by A.S. King**

2014 | Fiction | Young Adult |

From [Barnes & Noble](#): “In this strange and beautiful book, King explores moral dilemmas both common (how much do you owe a friend you've outgrown, at what point does compliance become enabling) and un[common] (when subject to dark visions of coming disaster, are you responsible for saving the world?). Glory O'Brien is still reeling from her mother's suicide, and about to leave high school for a future she can't envision, when she drinks a substance that opens her mind to detailed visions of an America felled by tyranny and stripped of civil rights. She tries to record a history of the future, while making peace at last with her past.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Rule of Law*

**More Happy Than Not by Adam Silvera**

2015 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warnings: homophobia, suicide

From [Barnes & Noble](#): “Aaron Soto lives with his mom and brother in a one-bedroom apartment in the Bronx, in a near-future world that’s just like our own—but for the existence of a memory-suppressing procedure that allows trauma survivors a chance to live a normal life. The procedure, with all its promise and peril—relief from pain; abandonment of responsibility—lurks at the fringes throughout Aaron’s story, one of love and expectation and self-discovery, and of declaring yourself to a world that will never give you a soft landing.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Viability*

**The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing by M.T. Anderson**

2006 | Fiction | Young Adult | Content Warning: racism

From [Barnes & Noble](#): “Octavian is a boy raised in genteel captivity by a group of philosophers, who tend to him and his beautiful mother, an exiled princess, in regimented ways. But the nature of their experimentation, the terms on which Octavian lives in their house, and the truth of how he’s seen by the larger world remain shrouded by the story’s dreamlike atmosphere, until a shocking discovery starts to unravel his life. The book explores gradations of evil, from banal to Grand Guignol, and the terrible consequences of power in the hands of the willfully ignorant.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law*

**Cheating Lessons by Nan Willard Cappel**

2016 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Bernadette Terrell has always known the right thing to do. Not the most popular girl in school, her focus has always been on academic, not social, success. [She is named] to Wickham High School's state championship quiz bowl team... [but] begins to suspect that perhaps someone cheated to get Wickham into the contest and is cheating still. In her search for answers, Bernadette must contend with a situation that isn't black and white, where a community's hope, hard work, and pride are on the line. Is a team—and a school—implicated by one person's behavior? Cappel's blend of suspense and humor makes Cheating Lessons a riveting story about right and wrong—and the downside of trust.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness*

**Going the Wrong Path by Arthur Weissmann**

2017 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “The Botelho family emigrates from the African country of Angola to the United States of America for a better life. The Botelho family is working hard and all four are achieving the American Dream, even though Silvio gets mixed with the wrong crowd. Suddenly, a tragedy occurs. Will Silvio’s wild side take over? Being Antonio’s only adult relative in the United States, will Silvio drag him to his wild ways? This is a compelling story of a young man trying to achieve his academic and professional goals while surrounded by adversity, drug use, drug dealing, and crime. Will he succeed? Or will the environment kill all of his dreams and perhaps even himself?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Viability*

**The Winner's Curse by Marie Rutkoski**

2014 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “As a general’s daughter in a vast empire that revels in war and enslaves those it conquers, seventeen-year-old Kestrel has two choices: she can join the military or get married. But Kestrel has other intentions. One day, she is startled to find a kindred spirit in a young slave up for auction. Arin’s eyes seem to defy everything and everyone. Following her instinct, Kestrel buys him—with unexpected consequences. It’s not long before she has to hide her growing love for Arin. But he, too, has a secret, and Kestrel quickly learns that the price she paid for a fellow human is much higher than she ever could have imagined. Set in a richly imagined new world, *The Winner’s Curse* by Marie Rutkoski is a story of deadly games where everything is at stake, and the gamble is whether you will keep your head or lose your heart.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*

**Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram**

2018 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's about to take his first-ever trip to Iran, and it's pretty overwhelming—especially when he's also dealing with clinical depression, a disapproving dad, and a chronically anemic social life. In Iran, he gets to know his ailing but still formidable grandfather, his loving grandmother, and the rest of his mom's family for the first time. And he meets Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything... Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab. When it's time to go home to America, he'll have to find a way to be Darioush on his own.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Darius the Great Deserves Better by Adib Khorram (Sequel)**

2020 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “In this companion to the award-winning *Darius the Great Is Not Okay*, Darius suddenly has it all: a boyfriend, an internship, a spot on the soccer team. It’s everything he’s ever wanted—but what if he deserves better? Darius Kellner is having a bit of a year. Since his trip to Iran this past spring, a lot has changed. He’s getting along with his dad, and his best friend Sohrab is only a Skype call away. Between his first boyfriend, Landon, his varsity soccer practices, and his internship at his favorite tea shop, Darius is feeling pretty okay. Like he finally knows what it means to be Darius Kellner. Then, of course, everything changes...Darius thought he knew exactly who he was and what he wanted, but maybe he was wrong. Maybe he deserves better.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli**

2002 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out—under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her. In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity—and the thrill and inspiration of first love.”

➔ Movie version is also on this list (p. 26)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (Sequel)**

2007 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “LOVE, STARGIRL picks up a year after Stargirl ends and reveals the new life of the beloved character who moved away so suddenly at the end of Stargirl. The novel takes the form of “the world's longest letter,” in diary form, going from date to date through a little more than a year's time. In her writing, Stargirl mixes memories of her bittersweet time in Mica, Arizona, with involvements with new people in her life. In Love, Stargirl, we hear the voice of Stargirl herself as she reflects on time, life, Leo, and—of course—love.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**The Bubble Wrap Boy by Phil Earle**

2014 | Fiction | Young Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “Charlie Han's troubles are way bigger than he is. At school, he's branded an outsider, a loser—the tiny kid from the Chinese Chippy. His only ally is Sinus Sedgely, the only lad in school with a worse reputation than Charlie himself. Life at home isn't much better. His dad is better with a wok than he is with words, and his mum is suffocating the life out of Charlie, wrapping him in enough cotton wool to fill a pharmacy. But when a new passion leads Charlie to the mother of all confrontations, he finds his mum's been hiding a massive secret. A secret that whilst shocking, might actually lead Charlie to feeling ten feet tall. The Bubble Wrap Boy is about the terrors of friendship, family and one undersized boy's ability to think BIG...”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Respect*

**Beartown by Frederick Backman**

2016 | Fiction | Adult | Content Warnings: homophobia, sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “People say Beartown is finished. A tiny community nestled deep in the forest, it is slowly losing ground to the ever-encroaching trees. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected. Beartown explores the hopes that bring a small community together, the secrets that tear it apart, and the courage it takes for an individual to go against the grain.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, Viability*

**Us Against You by Frederick Backman (Sequel)**

2017 | Fiction | Adult | Content Warnings: homophobia, sexual violence, suicide

From [Goodreads](#): “After everything that the citizens of Beartown have gone through, they are struck yet another blow when they hear that their beloved local hockey team will soon be disbanded. What makes it worse is the obvious satisfaction that all the former Beartown players, who now play for a rival team in Hed, take in that fact. Amidst the mounting tension between the two rivals, a surprising newcomer is handpicked to be Beartown’s new hockey coach... But bringing this team together proves to be a challenge as old bonds are broken, new ones are formed, and the enmity with Hed grows more and more acute. As the big match approaches, the not-so-innocent pranks and incidents between the communities pile up and their mutual contempt grows deeper.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law, Viability*

**Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes**

1959 | Fiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “The story of a mentally disabled man whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment seems to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance until Algernon begins his sudden, unexpected deterioration. Will the same happen to Charlie?”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult**

2005 | Fiction | Adult

From [Goodreads](#): “The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for [older sister] Kate—a life and a role that she has never challenged... until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister—and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves. A provocative novel that raises some important ethical issues, My Sister's Keeper is the story of one family's struggle for survival at all human costs and a stunning parable for all time.”

➔ Also available as a [movie](#) (with different ending from book) (2009) (p. 26)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**The Pact by Jodi Picoult**

2006 | Fiction | Adult | Content Warnings: sexual violence

From [Goodreads](#): “For eighteen years the Hartes and the Golds have lived next door to each other [and] grown so close it seems they have always been a part of each other's lives... it's no surprise that in high school [their children] Chris and Emily's friendship blossoms into something more. They've been soul mates since they were born. So when midnight calls from the hospital come in, no one is ready for the appalling truth: Emily is dead at seventeen from a gunshot wound to the head. There's a single unspent bullet in the gun that Chris took from his father's cabinet—a bullet that Chris tells police he intended for himself. But a local detective has doubts about the suicide pact that Chris has described.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*



## Biographies & Documentaries

### ***Abacus: Small Enough to Jail* directed by Steve James**

2016 | Documentary | Not Rated

From [PBS](#): “From acclaimed director Steve James, the little-known story of the only U.S. bank prosecuted in relation to the 2008 financial crisis. An Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Feature in 2018.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Rule of Law, Viability*

### ***Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock* by filmmaker Sharon La Cruise**

2010 | Documentary | PG

From [IMBD](#): “Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock is the story of a seven-year journey by filmmaker Sharon La Cruise to unravel the life of a forgotten civil rights activist named Daisy Bates. Beautiful, glamorous and articulate, Bates was fearless in her quest for justice, stepping into the spotlight to bring national attention to issues—and some say herself. Unconventional and egotistical, she became a household name in 1957 when she fought for the right of nine black students to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her public support culminated in a constitutional crisis—pitting a president against a governor and a community against itself. As head of the Arkansas NAACP and protector of the nine students, Bates would achieve instant fame as the drama played out on national television and in newspapers around the world. But that fame would prove fleeting and Bates would pay a hefty price for her attempts to remain relevant.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

### ***He Named Me Malala* directed by Davis Guggenheim**

2015 | Documentary | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “A look at the events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, for speaking out on girls' education followed by the aftermath, including her speech to the United Nations.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### ***Selma* directed by Ava DuVernay**

2014 | Biography | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “A chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### ***13<sup>th</sup>* directed by Ava DuVernay**

2016 | Documentary | TV-MA | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [IMDB](#): “An in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

## Biographical Dramas (Based on a True Story)

### **Ruby Bridges** directed by Euzhan Palcy

1998 | TV Episode | TV-PG

From [IMDB](#): “In 1960, a six-year-old African-American girl named Ruby Bridges helped to integrate the all-white schools of New Orleans. Although she was the only black girl to come to the school she was sent to, and since all the white mothers pulled their children out of class, she was the only one there. Although she faced a crowd of angry white citizens every day, she emerged unscathed, physically or emotionally. Encouraged by her teacher, a white woman from the North named Barbara Henry, and her mother Lucille, and with her own quiet strength, she eventually broke down a century-old barrier forever, a pivotal moment in the civil-rights movement.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

### **Hidden Figures** directed by Theodore Melfi

2016 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “As the United States raced against Russia to put a man in space, NASA found untapped talent in a group of African-American female mathematicians that served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in U.S. history. Based on the unbelievably true life stories of three of these women, known as "human computers," we follow these women as they quickly rose the ranks of NASA alongside many of history's greatest minds specifically tasked with calculating the momentous launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, and guaranteeing his safe return. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Gobel Johnson crossed all gender, race, and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### **October Sky** directed by Joe Johnston

1999 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry against his father's wishes.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Respect*

### **Remember the Titans** directed by Boaz Yakin

2000 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

**McFarland, USA** directed by Niki Caro

2015 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “Jim White moves his family after losing his last job as a football coach, and at his new school he turns seven disappointing students into one of the best cross-country teams in the region.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Respect*

**Just Mercy** directed by Destin Daniel Cretton

2019 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “A powerful and thought-provoking true-story, "Just Mercy" follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan might have had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley. One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian, who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds—and the system—stacked against them.”

→ [Here](#) is a teaching resource.

→ Book version is also on this list (p. 4)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Rule of Law, Viability*

**The Blind Side** directed by John Lee Hancock

2009 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All-American football player and first-round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*

**Catch Me If You Can** directed by Steven Spielberg

2002 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “A true story about Frank Abagnale Jr. who, before his 19th birthday, successfully conned millions of dollars worth of checks as a Pan Am pilot, doctor, and legal prosecutor. An FBI agent makes it his mission to put him behind bars. But Frank not only eludes capture, he revels in the pursuit.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Rule of Law*

**The Pursuit of Happyness directed by Gabriele Muccino**

2006 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “Based on a true story about a man named Christopher Gardner. Gardner has invested heavily in a device known as a “bone density scanner.” He feels like he has it made selling these devices. However, they do not sell well as they are marginally better than x-ray at a much higher price. As Gardner works to make ends meet, his wife leaves him and he loses his apartment. Forced to live out in the streets with his son, Gardner continues to sell bone density scanners while concurrently taking on an unpaid internship as a stockbroker, with slim chances for advancement to a paid position. Before he can receive pay, he needs to outshine the competition through 6 months of training, and to sell his devices to stay afloat.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Viability*

**Shattered Glass directed by Billy Ray**

2003 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “This film tells the true story of fraudulent Washington, D.C. journalist Stephen Glass, who rose to meteoric heights as a young writer in his 20s, becoming a staff writer at “The New Republic” for three years (1995-1998), where 27 of his 41 published stories were either partially or completely made up. Looking for a short cut to fame, Glass concocted sources, quotes and even entire stories, but his deception did not go unnoticed forever, and eventually, his world came crumbling down.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency*

**A Beautiful Mind directed by Ron Howard**

2001 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “From the heights of notoriety to the depths of depravity, John Forbes Nash, Jr. experienced it all. A mathematical genius, he made an astonishing discovery early in his career and stood on the brink of international acclaim. But the handsome and arrogant Nash soon found himself on a painful and harrowing journey of self-discovery. After many years of struggle, he eventually triumphed over his tragedy, and finally—late in life—received the Nobel Prize.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Respect, Viability*

**The Big Short directed by Adam McKay**

2015 | Movie | R

From [IMDB](#): “In 2006-2007 a group of investors bet against the US mortgage market. In their research they discover how flawed and corrupt the market is.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Rule of Law*

**Erin Brockovich** directed by Steven Soderbergh

2000 | Movie | R

From [IMDB](#): “Erin Brockovich-Ellis is an unemployed single mother, desperate to find a job, but is having no luck. This losing streak even extends to a failed lawsuit against a doctor in a car accident she was in...she successfully browbeats her lawyer to give her a job in compensation for the loss. While no one takes her seriously...that soon changes when she begins to investigate a suspicious real estate case involving the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. What she discovers is that the company is trying quietly to buy land that was contaminated by hexavalent chromium, a deadly toxic waste that the company is improperly and illegally dumping and, in turn, poisoning the residents in the area. As she digs deeper, Erin finds herself leading point in a series of events that would involve her law firm in one of the biggest class action lawsuits in American history against a multi-billion dollar corporation.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Rule of Law*

**The Informant!** directed by Steven Soderbergh

2009 | Movie | R

From [IMDB](#): “Mark Whitacre has worked for lysine developing company ADM for many years and has even found his way into upper management. But nothing has prepared him for the job he is about to undertake—being a spy for the FBI. Unwillingly pressured into working as an informant against the illegal price-fixing activities of his company, Whitacre gradually adopts the idea that he's a true secret agent. But as his incessant lies keep piling up, his world begins crashing down around him.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Rule of Law*

## Movies

### **To Kill a Mockingbird** directed by Robert Mulligan

1962 | Movie | Approved

From [IMDB](#): “Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his children against prejudice.”

→ [Here](#) is thought-provoking review that could be used for classroom discussion.

→ Book version is also on this list (p. 10)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Rule of Law*

### **Toy Story** directed by John Lasseter

1995 | Movie | G

From [IMDB](#): “A cowboy doll is profoundly threatened and jealous when a new spaceman figure supplants him as top toy in a boy's room.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

### **The Lion King** directed by Roger Allers & Rob Minkoff

1994 | Movie | G

From [IMDB](#): “A young lion prince is cast out of his pride by his cruel uncle, who claims he killed his father. While the uncle rules with an iron paw, the prince grows up beyond the Savannah, living by a philosophy: No worries for the rest of your days. But when his past comes to haunt him, the young prince must decide his fate: Will he remain an outcast or face his demons and become what he needs to be?”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Viability*

### **A Bug's Life** directed by John Lasseter & Andrew Stanton

1998 | Movie | G

From [IMDB](#): “A misfit ant, looking for "warriors" to save his colony from greedy grasshoppers, recruits a group of bugs that turn out to be an inept circus troupe.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Viability*

### **Finding Nemo** directed by Andrew Stanton

2003 | Movie | G

From [IMDB](#): “After his son is captured in the Great Barrier Reef and taken to Sydney, a timid clownfish sets out on a journey to bring him home.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Respect, Viability*

### **Monster's Inc.** directed by Pete Docter & David Silverman

2001 | Movie | G

From [IMDB](#): “In order to power the city, monsters have to scare children so that they scream. However, the children are toxic to the monsters, and after a child gets through, 2 monsters realize things may not be what they think.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Viability*

**Brave directed by Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman, & Steve Purcell**

2012 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**The Outsiders directed by Francis Coppola**

1983 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “The rivalry between two gangs, the poor Greasers and the rich Socs, only heats up when one gang member kills a member of the other.”

➔ Book version is also on this list (p. 8)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**The Truman Show directed by Peter Weir**

1998 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “Since birth, a big fat lie defines the well-organised but humdrum life of the kind-hearted insurance salesman and ambitious explorer, Truman Burbank. Utterly unaware of the thousands of cleverly hidden cameras watching his every move, for nearly three decades, Truman's entire existence pivots around the will and the wild imagination of the ruthlessly manipulative television producer, Christof—the all-powerful TV-God of an extreme 24/7 reality show: The Truman Show. As a result, Truman's picturesque neighbourhood with the manicured lawns and the uncannily perfect residents is nothing but an elaborate state-of-the-art set, and the only truth he knows is what the worldwide television network and its deep financial interests dictate. Do lab rats know they are forever imprisoned?”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Millions directed by Danny Boyle**

2004 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “The UK is about to switch its currency from Pounds to Euros, giving a gang a chance to rob the poorly-secured train loaded with money on its way to incineration. But, during the robbery, one of the big bags falls literally from the sky on Damian's playhouse, a 7-year old given to talking to saints. The boy then starts seeing what the world and the people around him are made of. Ethics, being human and the soul all come to the forefront in this film.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**The Long Walk Home directed by Richard Pearce**

1990 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “Two women, black and white, in 1955 Montgomery Alabama, must decide what they are going to do in response to the famous bus boycott led by Martin Luther King.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*

**Shrek directed by Andrew Adamson & Vicky Jensen**

2001 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “A mean lord exiles fairytale creatures to the swamp of a grumpy ogre, who must go on a quest and rescue a princess for the lord in order to get his land back.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*

**The Karate Kid directed by John G. Avildsen**

1984 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “A martial arts master agrees to teach karate to a bullied teenager.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Transparency, Respect*

**The Sandlot directed by David Mickey Evans**

1993 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “In the summer of 1962, a new kid in town is taken under the wing of a young baseball prodigy and his rowdy team, resulting in many adventures.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Respect*

**Soul directed by Pete Docter & Kemp Powers**

2020 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “After landing the gig of a lifetime, a New York jazz pianist suddenly finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*

**Stargirl directed by Julia Hart**

2020 | Movie | PG

From [IMDB](#): “An unassuming high schooler finds himself inexplicably drawn to the free-spirited new girl, whose unconventional ways change how they see themselves—and each other.”

➔ Book version is also on this list (p. 16)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Respect*

**Bend It Like Beckham directed by Gurinder Chadha**

2002 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “A kaleidoscope of color and culture clash humorously as an Indian family in London tries to raise their soccer-playing daughter in a traditional way. Unlike tarty elder sister Pinky, who is preparing for an Indian wedding and a lifetime of cooking the perfect chapatti, Jess' dream is to play soccer professionally like her hero David Beckham. Wholeheartedly against Jess' unorthodox ambition, her parents eventually reveal that their reservations have more to do with protecting her than with holding her back. When Jess is forced to make a choice between tradition and her beloved sport, her family must decide whether to let her chase her dream...and a soccer ball.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Accountability, Fairness, Respect, Viability*



**My Sister's Keeper directed by Nick Cassavetes**

2009 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “Anna Fitzgerald looks to earn medical emancipation from her parents who until now have relied on their youngest child to help their leukemia-stricken daughter Kate remain alive.”

→ Book version is also on this list (p. 18)

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Fairness*

**The Day After Tomorrow directed by Roland Emmerich**

2004 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “Jack Hall, paleoclimatologist, must make a daring trek from Washington, D.C. to New York City to reach his son, trapped in the cross-hairs of a sudden international storm which plunges the planet into a new Ice Age.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Accountability, Fairness, Viability*

**The Maze Runner directed by Wes Ball**

2014 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “Awakening in an elevator, remembering nothing of his past, Thomas emerges into a world of about thirty teenage boys, all without past memories, who have learned to survive under their own set of rules in a completely enclosed environment, subsisting on their own agriculture and supplies. With a new boy arriving every thirty days, the group has been in "The Glade" for three years, trying to find a way to escape through the Maze that surrounds their living space (patrolled by cyborg monsters named 'Griever'). They have begun to give up hope when a comatose girl arrives with a strange note, and their world begins to change with the boys dividing into two factions: those willing to risk their lives to escape and those wanting to hang onto what they've got and survive.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials directed by Wes Ball (Sequel)**

2015 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “The second chapter of the epic "Maze Runner" saga. Thomas and his fellow Gladers face their greatest challenge yet: searching for clues about the mysterious and powerful organization known as WCKD. Their journey takes them to the Scorch, a desolate landscape filled with unimaginable obstacles. Teaming up with resistance fighters, the Gladers take on WCKD's vastly superior forces and uncover its shocking plans for them all.”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Maze Runner: The Death Cure** directed by Wes Ball (Third Installment)

2018 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “In the epic finale to The Maze Runner Saga, Thomas leads his group of escaped Gladers on their final and most dangerous mission yet. To save their friends, they must break into the legendary last city, a WCKD controlled labyrinth that may turn out to be the deadliest maze of all. Anyone who makes it out alive will get the answers to the questions the Gladers have been asking since they first arrived in the maze. Will Thomas and the crew make it out alive? Or will Ava Paige get her way?”

*Ethical Principles: Trust, Fairness, Respect, Viability*

**Gattaca** directed by Andrew Niccol

1997 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “In the not-too-distant future, a less-than-perfect man wants to travel to the stars. Society has categorized Vincent Freeman as less than suitable given his genetic make-up and he has become one of the underclass of humans that are only useful for menial jobs. To move ahead, he assumes the identity of Jerome Morrow, a perfect genetic specimen who is a paraplegic as a result of a car accident. With professional advice, Vincent learns to deceive DNA and urine sample testing. Just when he is finally scheduled for a space mission, his program director is killed and the police begin an investigation, jeopardizing his secret.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Accountability, Rule of Law*

**Passengers** directed by Morten Tyldum

2016 | Movie | PG-13

From [IMDB](#): “The spaceship, Starship Avalon, in its 120-year voyage to a distant colony planet known as the "Homestead Colony" and transporting 5,258 people has a malfunction in one of its sleep chambers. As a result one hibernation pod opens prematurely and the one person that awakes, Jim Preston is stranded on the spaceship, still 90 years from his destination.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Viability*

**Forrest Gump** directed by Robert Zemeckis

1994 | Movie | PG-13 | Content Warning: sexual violence

From [IMDB](#): “The presidencies of Kennedy and Johnson, the events of Vietnam, Watergate and other historical events unfold through the perspective of an Alabama man with an IQ of 75, whose only desire is to be reunited with his childhood sweetheart.”

*Ethical Principles: Integrity, Trust, Fairness, Respect*