Bibliography

_Gandhi: An Autobiography. The Story of My Experiments with Truth_ by Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi (Author), Mahadev H. Desai (Author), Sissela Bok (Foreword)

Also, _Gandhi: A Memoir_ by William Shirer.

Both of these books are excellent examples of who Gandhi was and how he changed the world through his use of non-violent resistance. They are both quite readable and full of wonderful anecdotes about the people closest to Gandhi and his attitudes towards like. This is a man that deserves to be read about. He is the very essence of the ideals of character, morals and ethical behavior.

_The Education of Little Tree_ by Forrest Carter.

Most critics believe that this book becomes an education in itself teaching the reader how to feel and understand the plight of the Native American people. It also holds many truths about the triumph of the human spirit and how hard work can pay off. This book was a required text in my college and I believe its points to be still relevant today. It is a wonderful tale that has more similarities between non-fiction or historical writing.

__Bound for Glory__ by Woody Guthrie.

This book shows the triumph of the human spirit and through a man who was quite articulate. Guthrie shows the reader how a driven spirit can eventually discover the wonders of life. This book expresses a vision of America that is no longer seen and one that is filled with honor and drive. Guthrie was a man who embodied what America could achieve and also talk a great deal about being a God-fearing and ethical and moral being.

_Leaves of Grass_ by Walt Whitman.

This is a classic of America literature and a book that holds a lot of information about the formation of the mind and spirit. Some of the best parts of the book include Whitman’s homage to Abraham Lincoln and his work during the civil war in hospital tents all over the country. Whitman’s sharp look at American culture of the time and his understanding of the human ideals expresses something that is inherent in every person and something that was crying to get out and onto the page.

_Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, by Frederick Douglass._

This book is a necessary read for every American. In order to truly understand the implications of slavery in America, one must engage in this text and see how Douglass
was shaped. I love books that show the honesty of a struggling person without sounding fake or heavy handed. Douglass’ retelling of his slavery and eventual freedom and education is inspiring to all who read this text. It is they very embodiment of the Wendt Center for character education specifically in relation to morals, spirituality and the golden rule. I feel that students who engage in this type of writing can shape the honest thoughts of morals and ethics within the American context.

_Walden_ by Henry David Thoreau.
This work is also a wonderful tale of independence and self-reliance. I believe that it teaches all of the Wendt ideals such as morals, ethics, the golden rule, truthfulness, honesty, and fairness. It teaches pride in ones work and how hard work can be the meaning of life. It also exposes students to the notion of being yourself and I believe that to be an integral part of college life.

_Selected Essays_ by Ralph Waldo Emerson.
These essays express many ideas about life in a moral way. Emerson also challenges the reader to create his/her own circumstance. The essays urge us to be in harmony with nature in order to create individual integrity and an ethical way of living our lives. The human perspective from Emerson is quite telling and something that gives relevance to an understanding of a moral and ethical way of life.

_Round River: From the Journals of Aldo Leopold_ by Aldo Leopold, edited by Luna B. Leopold.
This book is one of my favorites and one that is quite personal. Leopold shows us that an understanding of the land can help shape how we act as human beings. There is a respect for all life and a respect for the way of life that he strove to create. I believe it to be honest and entertaining while also instructing the reader in many ways of personal and ethical behavior.

_The Red Badge of Courage_ by Stephen Crane.
Everyone who has graduated from middle school should have this read by the end of adolescence. It is a necessary part of American history and a truthful re-telling of civil war history. I believe that this book can also teach compassion and (like works by Twain) is filled with great anecdotes that only a master of American storytelling can tell. This is a book that allows the reader to express an emotion that is much truer than most common fiction. It teaches understanding and ethical behavior among all of mankind and does so in a way that is intelligent and page turning.

_Sailing Alone Around the World_ by Captain Joshua Slocum.
Challenged by a man who said it could not be done, Captain Slocum set out in April 1895 to prove him wrong. This book is a great narrative tale about the triumph of the human spirit and shows how perseverance can prevail in the harshest of conditions. This personal account is told in a fast-paced, journalistic way with many twists and turns to keep the reader interested. I believe that it can teach the American college student about drive and triumph over adversity.
Reflections from the North Country by Sigurd F. Olson.
This is a book that I was exposed to when I taught at Northland College in Northern Wisconsin. It has many similarities with the Leopold book, but also gives a new perspective on land agitation and environmental concerns. It is highly reflective and shows Olson’s evocation of the harmony of nature, the cleansing power of its freedom and solitude. He shares many truths that come with an understanding of nature and scientific sophistication that testifies to the understanding of mankind’s relation to the earth and her cycles of seasonal change.

This book is a wonderful find. I urge people who read to also see some of Kurosawa’s films such as Throne of Blood, Ran, Kagemusha, Yojimbo (the Bodyguard) and The Seven Samurai. Kurosawa’s movies, like his autobiography, show characters struggling with themes such as morality, ethicality, mankind’s search for understanding, drive, desire and deep aspect of the make-up of the human spirit. There is a spirituality that runs throughout his work and a drive for the people involved to look inward and to struggle to make one’s ideas better for themselves and their community. This book is a wonderful read full of great stories of early 20th Century Japan as well as tales of life and learning. It is must read for anyone who is interested in self understanding and preservation. The work also shows the reader the importance of eastern religion and philosophy to the understanding of the self. It is quite telling and a wonderfully powerful read.

Man’s Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl.
The first time I encountered this book was in a college theology class. This work spoke directly to me. It showed a person can view life a kind of journey and how desire can sometimes change outlooks and perspectives. This book is a sort of guide to life full of instructions about thoughts and feelings as a moral person in a sometimes unethical world.

Character is Destiny by Russell Gough.
This book is a powerful read about the importance of character development in the era of tolerance and entitlement. It addresses many aspects of life and the road to personal growth while also instructing the reader on how to become a better person. It looks so closely at the many themes of the Wendt Center for Character Education such as morals, ethics, and truthfulness. It is must read for anyone concerned with making our lives better and striving towards personal achievement.

Translations, a play by Brian Friel
Translations is an excellent play to use in relation to truth, honesty and fairness. It also addresses issues of the Golden Rule and attempts to incorporate political, social and historical issues into a rural setting. The play takes place in Ireland shortly before the Irish Famine (1845-1850) and involves the notion of Irish experience within the context of British colonialism. Ireland at the time was under British rule the Irish people were governed by every aspect of the political modus operandi of the Brits. In order to hold onto their traditions and language the Irish were forced to set up Hedge schools. These were schools (often gathering students in barns or rural areas) where the education was
centered on knowledge and customs of Ireland, taught for the Irish, by the Irish. These Hedge Schools also happened to be illegal in the eyes of the British monarchy and were a direct result of hundreds of years of unjust laws forbidding the Irish people (mainly Catholics) to hold any positions of political, social or landowning power. Some themes that will arise in our discussions of *Translations* are:

1. Truthfulness: Are the British being truthful about why they are in Ireland? They say the British officers are in Ireland to help rename, map and anglicize Ireland. However, as the play goes on it becomes clearer that Britain is also in the country for the ulterior motives of eradicating Irish customs while forcing the inhabitants to adopt English ones. *Translations* is also a play about language and how accurate or inaccurate language can be based on its literal translation. Characters are constantly at a loss for communication since they speak different words. The play begins to raise issues of culture and superiority and the age old question of which history is more “true” or “accurate” and should be trusted this author knowing that his allegiances are to Ireland and sympathetic to the plight of the working people.

2. Honesty and Fairness: For many years the British Monarchy kept Ireland a second world country with poverty, unemployment and short life expectancy running rampant. They also set up laws so that Catholics could not own land while also charging exorbitant rent on land that had been owned by Irish families for generations. While Ireland was fast becoming modernized, it was also being held back by unjust laws and unfair practices. Again, this issue will be discussed in relation to British rule and its lack of honesty and fairness toward the Irish people. The play will also show how oppressive nations eventually bring the oppressed together in a community often relying on their personal ideals and fair values to get them through the rough times.

3. Morals and Ethics: Since the Church of England was one of the primary powers (both religious and political) of Britain at the time it helped to dictate the laws excluding Catholics. While Britain had nearly given up their “brute force” ideal of conquering other countries, this play reflects the new ideas of using intimidation and selective education in order to colonize the Irish people. It also addresses issues of the Golden Rule considering that often these changes were made in the name of religion and ignored the fact that most religious idealism should come from “treating your neighbor as you would like to be treated.” Religion and faith is an integral part of Irish life and the morals and ethics that people were learning from the church as well as the hedge schools was professing the Golden Rule while the British officers tended to ignore it.

For Further reading:

“The Historical and Colonial Context of Brian Friel’s *Translations*”

Website: [http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEnglish/imperial/ireland/trans.htm](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofEnglish/imperial/ireland/trans.htm)

Brian Friel Biography
Review of the play Translations
Website: http://www.culturevulture.net/Theater/Translations.htm

Brian Friel (Faber Critical Guide) by Clyve Jones and Jim Hunter. Faber, 2000.
Famine by Liam O’Flaherty

I feel that all of these books address many of the themes of the Wendt Center for Character Education. However, students and faculty should read them because they are also excellent examples of literature that accomplish both learning and entertainment in the same breath.

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