

THE NAVIGATOR

Charting your Course for a Purposeful Life
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Movies for Making Family Connections

Reaching, motivating and inspiring young adults can be a challenge fraught with awkward questions and evasive answers. More than ever before, many family members are immersed in electronics: computers, cell phones, iPods, anything with a screen. While many of us who are older have become proficient at visiting the electronic world, and can even get around in it pretty well, our children and grandchildren are natives. They've grown up on short bits of information, presented in intriguing ways. The first key to reaching them is to find ways to speak with them in their language.

Most teenagers and young adults love to watch movies and I have found that they can be thoughtful and articulate in discussing them. So I have been developing a repertoire of movies that are relevant to the principles I teach. I have my younger clients watch selected movies from my list and we then discuss the pertinent issues and values I wish to highlight. During the coming holidays most of us have a more relaxed schedule and can find time to watch a movie with a younger family member with whom we wish to share ideas and values, or maybe whom we simply wish to encourage.

My list of favorites:

Feature Films

The Ultimate Gift (2006) PG Jason thought his inheritance was going to be the gift of money and lots of it. Was he ever in for a big surprise.

Greedy (Michael J. Fox) (1994) PG-13 Uncle Joe is aging. He's also a millionaire. That's why his family is trying so very hard to get into his good books.

Pride and Prejudice (Keira Knightly version 2005) PG The story is based on Jane Austen's novel about five sisters - Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty and Lydia Bennet - in Georgian England

Sense and Sensibility (BBC production) (2008) NR New adaptation of Jane Austen's classic novel about love and marriage.

A Good Woman (2004) PG While retaining her secret identity, the illustrious Mrs. Erlynne saves Lady Windemere from making a grand social faux-pas with the scoundrelly Lord Darlington. Based on an Oscar Wilde play.

The Philadelphia Story (1940) NR When a rich woman's ex-husband and a tabloid-type reporter turn up just before her planned remarriage, she begins to learn the truth about herself.



The Navigator is a quarterly newsletter for all who have an interest in wealth. The rich really are different, but not in the ways most people think. Many envy the wealthy and presume they have no problems, but in fact, they face unique psychological challenges. Thayer Willis, LCSW, wealth counselor, speaker and author of *Navigating the Dark Side of Wealth: A Life guide for Inheritors*, helps her clients develop the meaningful lives we all treasure.

The Pursuit of Happyness (2006) PG-13 A struggling salesman takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional endeavor.

The Inheritance (Arven) (2003) –NR - A young man is torn between his individual hopes and his sense of duty when his father dies and he is expected to take over the family industry.

Wall Street (1987) R A young and impatient stockbroker is willing to do anything to get to the top, including trading on illegal inside information taken through a ruthless and greedy corporate raider who takes the youth under his wing.

Documentaries

Born Rich (2003) NR Documentary about the experience of growing up as a child in one of the world's richest families.

The One Percent (2006) NR Focuses on the growing "wealth gap" in America.

The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World (PBS production) (2008) NR Examines the long history of money, credit, and banking.

(descriptions quoted from imdb.com)

Steps to Take

1. Choose a movie or film to watch with a family member
2. Ask if he or she is willing to watch it with you. Only proceed if the answer is yes.
3. Watch the movie.
4. Discuss what you watched. Ask open-ended questions like:
 - How did [the main character] evolve in the story?
 - What revelation did you see a character experience in the movie?
 - How did it affect the story?
 - What conflict did you see in the movie? How was it resolved?
 - What was a major theme in this story?
 - What did you learn about your life?

Tip: Do not ask questions which can be answered with a simple yes or no. Also, be grateful for any discussion. If you disagree, you can say so, pointing out that in excellent films, often there can be more than one valid point of view. Be accepting and kind.

This is a list of my favorite movies for teaching the psychology of wealth. It is certainly not a definitive list, and grows as I continue to screen movies. If you have any favorites that are not on my list, please send me the titles. Thank you!

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