



## The Moral of the Story: An Anthology of Ethics Through Literature

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In *The Moral of the Story*, Peter and Renata Singer draw on some of the best works of fiction, playwriting, and poetry in order to shed light on the perennial questions of ethics.

- A vivid montage of literature that touches on a broad range of ethical subjects and themes
- Offers a unique contribution to the study of moral philosophy and literature
- Demonstrates how literary sources can add richness to discussions of real-life moral questions and dilemmas
- Brings together selections and excerpts from the world's most celebrated short stories, novels, plays, and poetry
- Features substantive section introductions by Peter and Renata Singer
- Peter Singer is a leading moral philosopher, widely credited with triggering the modern animal-rights movement. His collection of essays, *Unsanctifying Human Life*, edited by Helga Kuhse, was published by Blackwell Publishing in 2001.

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## **The Moral of the Story: An Anthology of Ethics Through Literature** From Brand: Wiley-Blackwell **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Shelley called poets 'the unacknowledged legislators of the world.' Peter and Renata Singer have made novelists and playwrights (and poets!), its acknowledged ethicists. An intriguing collection." *Randy Cohen, writer of "The Ethicist" for the New York Times Magazine*

"This excellent, wide-ranging anthology reminds us that there is as much ethics in Tolstoy or Dostoyevsky as in Kant or Mill. Philosophy departments should leave around copies for students to dip into and be inspired by." *Jonathan Glover, King's College London*

"An essential and enriching anthology, selected with wisdom and care by Peter and Renata Singer...an invaluable light on the moral and ethical landscape." *Carol Rocamora, New York University*

"The Moral of the Story is an extremely stimulating collection. Its examples are mostly drawn from classics, but there are enough idiosyncratic contemporary choices to give it a distinct flavour." *James Ley, The Age*

#### From the Back Cover

In a society increasingly divided about moral values, we need to reflect on the ethics we hold.

- What do we owe to our children...to our elderly parents...to strangers?
- Is it always wrong to lie?
- With whom may we have sex, and who should we marry?
- Is a leader who takes his country to war responsible for the foreseeable deaths of civilians?
- Should we create new forms of life?
- Should we value beauty, even above human suffering?
- Does morality hold even in the death camps?
- Are morals relative?

Great writers have long wrestled with these questions, often adding depth and a more human dimension than we get from the abstract reasoning of philosophers. In *The Moral of the Story*, Peter and Renata Singer bring together an engrossing collection of fiction, drama, and poetry that stimulates the reader to think about the perennial questions of ethics.

Whether you read this book from cover to cover, or dip in to whatever selections pique your curiosity, you will find yourself absorbed in the stories and situations, and provoked to think again about your own values, as well as about today's controversial moral issues.

#### About the Author

**Peter Singer** is Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University. He is the author of *Animal Liberation* (1975), and is widely credited with triggering the modern animal rights movement. His other books include *Practical Ethics* (1979), *Rethinking Life and Death* (1995) and *One World* (2002). He is also the editor of *A Companion to Ethics* (Blackwell, 1991), *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave* (Blackwell, 2005), and, with Helga Kuhse, of *A Companion to Bioethics* (Blackwell, 1999) and *Bioethics: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 1999). A collection of his best essays on ethics, *Unsanctifying Human Life*, edited by Helga Kuhse, was published by Blackwell in 2002.

**Renata Singer** has taught in Oxfordshire and New Jersey, developed anti-racist programs in Sydney and written about development programs in South Africa, El Salvador, and Ethiopia. Her first novel, *The Front of the Family*, was published in 2002. Among her non-fiction works are the books *True Stories from the Land of Divorce* (with Nelly Zola, 1995) and *Goodbye and Hello* (with Susie Orzech, 1985).

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