

English 11B Unit One: Inter-Relationships and Self-Reliance **Themes and Essential Questions**

Themes:

- At times, the strong bite of satire presents truth more effectively than other forms of writing do.
- Every person deserves to be free.

Essential Questions:

- What criteria do I use to judge my values?
- What compromises of my integrity will I make in order to be accepted?
- How can I discover the truth about others?
- What sacrifices will I make for the truth?
- How do I communicate the truth? What voice do I use to be heard?
- What role does empathy play in how I treat others?
- What prejudices are we taught?

Building Background on this Topic

What is a Good Samaritan Law? Although they differ from state to state, the Good Samaritan laws are in place to protect citizens from liability during rescues or rescue attempts. Fear of being sued for any mistake made during a reasonable rescue attempt can prevent bystanders from stepping forward. These laws only apply if the individual offering aid is acting out of kindness and not being paid for services rendered. Professional rescue personnel are expected to do their jobs correctly and must be accountable for mistakes.

In certain parts of the country, the Good Samaritan laws actually **require** citizens to aid individuals who need help. Any citizen who stands by and makes no attempt to assist a victim can be taken to court for failing to make a reasonable effort to help.

Thoughts to Consider: Should people be required to help others or not? Why? What kinds of actions are considered a 'reasonable effort to assist' a victim?

Information on Michigan's Good Samaritan Law will be posted on the classroom webpage if you are interested.

THINK! (Your own thoughts)

PAIR... (What does your partner add?)

SHARE! (New ideas from class discussion)

Watch the following clips with these themes in mind and complete the chart below.

Issue	Seinfeld	The Incredibles
Is the character <i>willing</i> to help?		
Does the character break the law? If they do, do they <i>know</i> they are breaking the law?		
Is breaking the law a consideration in their decision?		
What is the character's reason behind the decision?		

- ✓ What concepts that we defined applied to this situation?
- ✓ How did you feel about the way the characters acted?
- ✓ How did you feel about the way the characters were treated due to their actions?
- ✓ How would you have reacted in a similar situation?