



Suggested Movie List

| Title | Director | Description | Category | Website link |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| A Shine of Rainbows (2009) | Vic Sarin | A lonely orphan's life is transformed by an extraordinary woman who teaches him to conquer grief and discover the magic in nature and himself. | Adoption | |
| "White Oleander" (2002) | Peter Kosminsky | A teenager journeys through a series of foster homes after her mother goes to prison for committing a crime of passion. | Foster Care and Adoption | |
| "Antwone Fisher" (2002) | Denzel Washington | Antwone Fisher, a young navy man, is forced to see a psychiatrist after a violent outburst against a fellow crewman. During the course of treatment a painful past is revealed and a new hope begins. | Foster Care and Adoption | |
| "Snow Dogs" (2002) | Brian Levant | When a Miami dentist inherits a team of sled dogs, he's got to learn the trade or lose his pack to a crusty mountain man. | Foster Care and Adoption | |

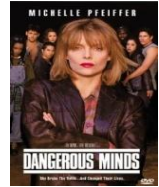
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|---------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| "America" with Rosie O'Donnell | Yves Simoneau | In "America," Dr. Maureen Brennan, a psychiatrist at a youth treatment center, encounters her newest patient, a bi-racial boy named America. Through their sessions, Dr. Brennan helps America come to terms with his roller-coaster life, which began when he was taken by authorities from his crack-addicted mother (2009) | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| "Angels in the Outfield" (1994) | William Dear | When a boy prays for a chance to have a family if the California Angels win the pennant, angels are assigned to make that possible. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| "Anne of Green Gables" (1985) | Kevin Sullivan | An orphan girl, sent to an elderly brother and sister by mistake, charms her new home and community with her firey spirit and imagination. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| "August Rush" (2007) | Kirsten Sheridan | A drama with fairy tale elements, where an orphaned musical prodigy uses his gift as a clue to finding his birth parents. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| "Frozen River" (2008) | Courtney Hunt | Takes place in the days before Christmas near a little-known border crossing on the Mohawk reservation between New York State and Quebec. Here, the lure of fast money from smuggling presents a daily challenge to single moms who would otherwise be earning minimum wage. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |

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|---------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| "Martian Child" | Menno Meyjes | A science-fiction writer, recently widowed, considers whether to adopt a hyper-imaginative 6-year-old abandoned and socially rejected boy who says he's really from Mars. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| My Flesh and Blood (2003) | Jonathan Karsh | Inspiring documentary tracks a year in the life of Susan Tom, a single parent from suburban Fairfield, Calif., who has adopted 11 children with special needs. Directed by Jonathan Karsh, the film obliterates stereotypes about people with disabilities, sharing joyful moments and everyday challenges without shying away from the family's heartbreaking losses. | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| Losing Isaiah (1995) | Stephen Gyllenhaal | Does a mother (Halle Berry) who accidentally abandons her baby deserve another chance? Emotional drama | Foster Care and Adoption |  |
| Buck (2011) | Cindy Meehl | An examination of the life of acclaimed 'horse whisperer' Buck Brannaman, who recovered from years of child abuse to become a well-known expert in the interactions between horses and people. | Foster Care and Child Abuse |  |
| "Boyz n the Hood" (1991) | John Singleton | Saga of a group of childhood friends growing up in a Los Angeles ghetto. | Gangs and Gang Culture |  |

"Dangerous Minds" (1995)

John N. Smith

An ex-marine teacher struggles to connect with her students in an inner city schools. Gangs and Gang Culture



Mi Vida Loca (1993)

Allison Anders

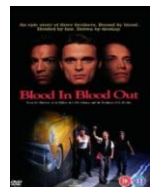
The mean streets of Echo Park are the setting for this disturbing look at how life in a gang only leads to self-destruction. Two childhood friends get caught up in their neighborhood gang scene and are assigned street names: Sad Girl (Angel Aviles) and Mousie (Seidy Lopez). Unfortunately, the girls' bond is destroyed when both of them mother children by the same boy, Ernesto (Jacob Vargas), who begins to sell drugs to keep food on both tables. Gangs and Gang Culture



Blood In/Blood Out (1993)

Taylor Hackford

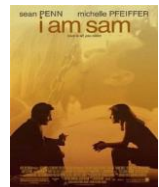
Drama centering on gang violence in LA, late 80's Gangs and Gang Culture



"I Am Sam" (2001)

Jessie Nelson

A mentally disabled man who must fight for custody of his young daughter, is aided by a tightly wound lawyer (Michelle Pfeiffer) who, in the course of discovering her client's essential humanity, discovers her own as well. Living with Disabilities



"Music Within"

Steven Sawalich

The true story of Richard Pimentel, a brilliant public speaker with a troubled past, who returns from Vietnam severely hearing -impaired and finds a new purpose in his landmark efforts on the behalf of Americans with disabilities.

Mental and Physical Disabilities

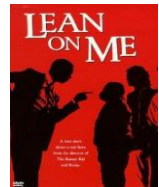


"Lean On Me" (1989)

John G. Avildsen

The dedicated but tyrannical Joe Clark is appointed the principal of a decaying inner-city school that he is determined to improve.

Education and Learning Challenges

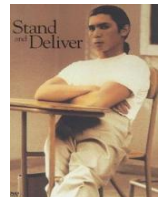


"Stand and Deliver"

Ramon Mendez

A dedicated teacher inspires his dropout prone students to learn calculus to build up their self-esteem and do so well that they are accused of cheating.

Education and Learning Challenges



Goodwill Hunting (1997)

Gus Van Sant

Math genius, Matt Damon, is helped by therapist Robin Williams, to confront the demons holding him back in his life.

Education and Learning Challenges



Temple Grandin

Mick Jackson

Emmy winner Claire Danes stars as Temple Grandin, a brilliant young woman coping with the stigma of autism at a time when it was misunderstood. With the support of her loving family, Temple dedicates herself to learning and becomes a famed animal behaviorist. Her passion for animals gives her a unique ability to understand them, and she fulfills her love of education by teaching about autism and the most humane ways to treat livestock and pets.

Education and Learning Challenges

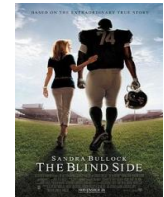


“The Blind Side”

John Lee Hancock

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.

Culture and Diversity



“The Pursuit of Happiness”

Gabriele Muccino

A struggling salesman takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional endeavor.

Culture and Diversity



“Thirteen”

Catherine Hardwick

A thirteen-year-old girl's relationship with her mother is put to the test as she discovers drugs, sex, and petty crime in the company of her cool but troubled best friend.

Culture and Diversity

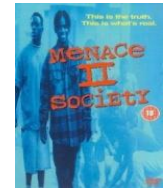


Menace II Society (1993)

Albert & Allen Hughes

Urban drama centers on 18-year-old Caine Lawson (Tyron Turner), a street tough facing a moral quandary while trying to turn his life around.

Culture and Diversity

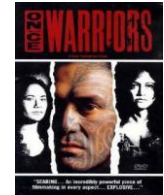


Once We Were Warriors

Lee Tamahori

Director Lee Tamahori's (Along Came a Spider) powerful adaptation of author Alan Duff's best-selling novel centers on the troubled life of a Maori family crippled by poverty, bigotry, alcoholism and domestic violence. Rena Owen stars as Beth Heke, a beleaguered mother who struggles to care for her three children while battling the demons of her erratic, often violent husband, Jake (Temuera Morrison).

Culture and Diversity

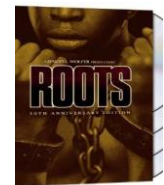


Roots

Marvin J. Chomsky

This legendary TV miniseries -- an adaptation of author Alex Haley's groundbreaking novel that details the history of his own family from slavery to emancipation -- received five Emmy Awards, as well as a Golden Globe for Best Dramatic TV Series. With a dynamic ensemble cast, this rousing epic features LeVar Burton, in his acting debut, portraying Haley's ancestor, Kunta Kinte, who was kidnapped from his African village and sold into slavery.

Culture and Diversity



Smoke Signals

Chris Eyre

On a Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, reservation, nothing ever changes -- until the estranged father of Victor Joseph (Adam Beach) bites the dust in Arizona, and Victor must go collect the cremated remains. The problem is, Victor can't afford the fare. But annoying nerd Thomas Builds-the-Fire (Evan Adams) will float Victor a loan ... if Thomas can tag along. This tender tale of self-discovery is based on acclaimed author Sherman Alexie's short stories.

Culture and Diversity

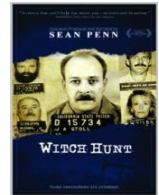


"Witch Hunt" (2009) – Narrated by Sean Penn

Don Hardy Jr.

The story of several families who have their lives destroyed when their hometown is whipped into a frenzy by allegations of child molestation.

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse

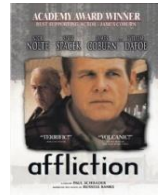


Affliction (1998)

Paul Schrader

Sheriff in town suffers from year of abuse from his father, is an alcoholic himself and a failure in his job and personal relationships. Stars Nick Nolte

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse

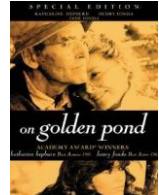


"On Golden Pond"

Mark Rydell

The loons are back again on Golden Pond and so are Norman Thayer, a retired professor, and Ethel who have had a summer cottage there since early in their marriage. This summer their daughter Chelsea -- whom they haven't seen for years -- feels she must be there for Norman's birthday.

Culture and Diversity



This Boys Life

Michael Caton-Jones

Caroline (Ellen Barkin) and her son, Toby (Leonardo DiCaprio), bounce from one relationship to another and finally end up in Washington state, where she marries Dwight (Robert De Niro), a modest mechanic. But Dwight fails to be the role model Caroline had hoped for, and Toby is desperate to escape from the weight of his heavy, abusive hand.

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse

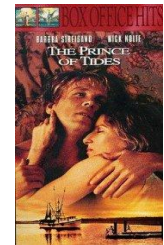


The Prince of Tides

Barbra Streisand

A Southern schoolteacher, Nick Nolte travels to New York City and unloads a lifetime of horrific, repressed memories to a psychiatrist (Barbra Streisand) in order to help save his suicidal sister. Adapted from a best-selling novel by Pat Conroy.

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse



"Precious"

Lee Daniels

In Harlem, an overweight, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child is invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life can head in a new direction.

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse



"Radio Flyer"

Richard Donner

A father recounts a dark period of his childhood when he and his little brother lived in the suburbs.

Family Dynamics & Child Abuse



My Name is Bill W (1989)

Daniel Petrie

Based on the inspiring true story of the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, this moving drama stars James Woods in an Emmy-winning performance as Bill Wilson, a successful stockbroker who loses everything in the 1929 stock market crash. After succumbing to depression and drink, he eventually sobers up with the help of fellow recovering alcoholic Dr. Bob (James Garner). With newfound hope for the future, the two create the now-famous support group.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse



When a Man Loves a Woman

Luis Mandoki's

Alice (Meg Ryan) and Michael (Andy Garcia) -- face a major crisis in their marriage when an accident brings Alice's secret drinking problem out in the open. As she confronts her alcoholism and Michael struggles to hold the family together, they must tackle issues that arise between them, including the realization of the large role liquor has played in their relationship since the beginning.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

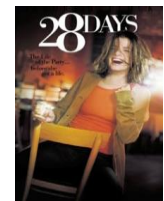


28 Days

Betty Thomas

Newspaper columnist Gwen Cummings (Sandra Bullock) never met a drink she couldn't quaff. But when her drunken buffoonery ruins her sister's wedding -- and does some major property damage -- a judge orders her to choose between rehab and jail. Gwen won't come clean about being an alcoholic, but a few days into her month-long dry-out, she meets a fellow resident (Viggo Mortensen) who'll change her outlook on life and love.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse



"Love, Lies & Lullabies" (1993)

Rod Harty

When a rebellious young woman's cocaine habit results in an addicted premature baby, authorities whisk the infant away. Devastated, the young mother realizes that she will have to prove herself worthy and capable of motherhood and so sets out to clean up her act. Unfortunately, it may be too little too late as far as the courts are concerned.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse



Half Nelson (2006)

Ryan Fleck

An inner-city junior high school teacher with a drug habit forms an unlikely friendship with one of his students after she discovers his secret.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

