

Individuals, Journalism, and Society

by
Stephen B. Waters

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BQ

Dedication

To my wife Wendy, and Sarah and Brad.
They are the reason to try.

The unnamed characters in this book are fictional and any resemblance between them and any real person is purely coincidental. Named characters in this book may be real and any opinions presented about them are likely to be richly deserved.

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Preface

It's Election Day, 2008, but the change people hope for is not the change they need. Because there was a need to think better to survive, modernist author Virginia Woolf claimed in 1923 that on December 10, 1910, the world had changed. She was premature. The world would actually begin to change 100 years later on December 10, 2010.

As accessible simple wisdoms empower people, character becomes easier to develop. New metaphors encourage processes kids understand, admire, and wish to emulate in a deeper way.

And none too soon. Journalism suffers from pervasive fog. Consciousness slips away. Schools lose traction. Character develops by chance. Politicians play games. Economists forget what works. History and philosophy drift. Scholarship loses perspective. Religion and tradition stall at cultural boundaries. Misbehavior threatens society's fragile fabric. Literature and language languish as destroyers march through civil institutions in a world made more dangerous by scientific progress. Fortunately, all it takes is a change of mind.

You are the main character of this book. Your experience shows patterns that can nudge your thought toward strong and useful character. Enjoy! People seldom get to revel in history to discover golden threads of simple wisdom.

Modern, Post-modern, and Post-colonial literary styles that preoccupied 20th century fiction fail to offer a way out of the fun house. This book avoids such styles, marking the trail back to what matters using Socratic dialogs indented to label different speakers. The chapters provide one order, but read them according to your interests—try 12 Noon for character, 2 PM for politics, or 5 PM for practical lessons.