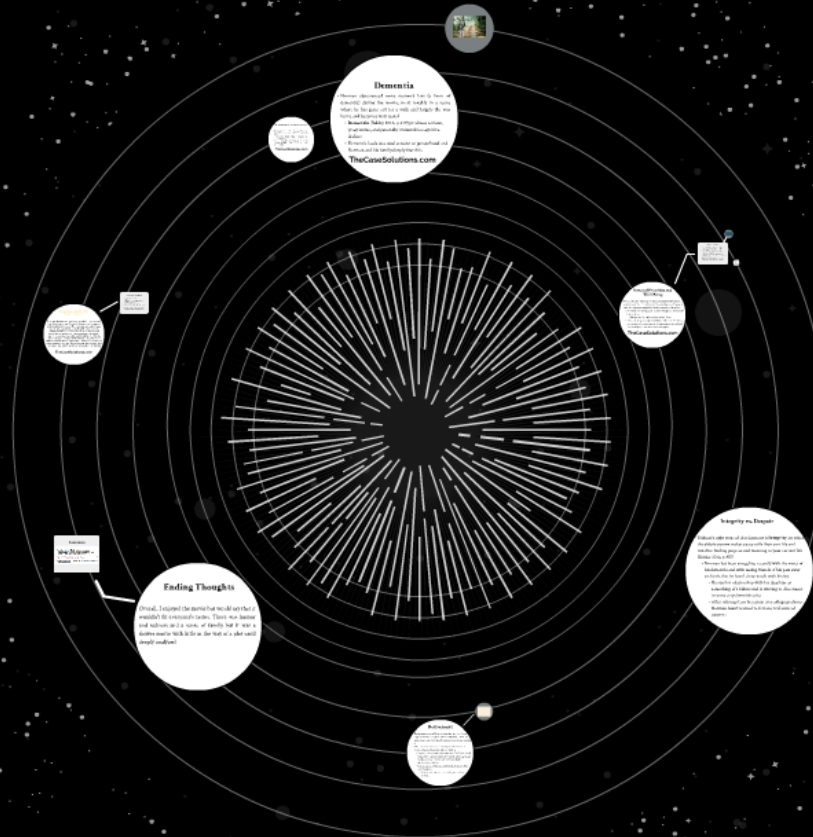


Toward Golden Pond (B)

TheCaseSolutions.com



Toward Golden Pond (B)

TheCaseSolutions.com

On Golden Pond (1981)

Directed by Mark Rydell

Ethel and Norman are an elderly couple in their late 60's and 70's respectively. The main character is Norman, a retired college professor. He is brusque and often crass, seeming to occasionally speak down on others. He struggles with his memory, revealing the onset of his dementia, as well as with his perception of himself in relation to his wife and estranged daughter. Further, he thinks frequently about death- though he doesn't like talking about it- and in some ways, thinks of it primarily as an escape from some of the sadder realities of aging and his current life, which he finds in some ways, unfulfilling.

TheCaseSolutions.com

Reflections on Norman

- Dementia [Cognitive, Physical]
 - Memory
- Personal Priorities and Well Being [Socioemotional]
 - Solidifying Attachments
- Integrity vs. Despair [Socioemotional]
- Retirement [Cognitive, Physical, Socioemotional]

TheCaseSolutions.com

Dementia

- Norman experienced some memory loss (a form of dementia) during the movie, most notably in a scene where he has gone out for a walk and forgets the way home and becomes very scared
 - **Dementia** (Belsky 2016, p.439) produces serious, progressive, and generally irreversible cognitive decline
 - Dementia leads to a total erosion of personhood and Norman and his family deeply fear this

TheCaseSolutions.com

The Physical Problems that Occur with Dementia

- Memory loss from dementia in elderly patients leads to potentially very dangerous physical harm (M. Otaki et al., 2015)
 - This is one of the primary factors of Norman's loss of independence
- It is also just Norman's age and the physical disabilities that come with that that are affecting his current life and his level of independence

TheCaseSolutions.com

Personal Priorities and Well-Being

- As one of the pivotal aspects of aging, **personal priorities** are essential, and refer to the wishes of the elderly man or women and what they hope to accomplish with the remainder of their lives
 - As with most elderly people, Norman struggles to maintain his independence
 - He goes out for walks and goes fishing alone
 - He places a high priority on family but feels that he is failing because he can't seem to get on the same page as his wife and has virtually no relationship with his daughter

TheCaseSolutions.com

Solidifying Attachments with People

- One of the most important aspects of well being in later life is to **strengthen the attachments and bonds** that are already there—particularly with family and friends
 - Norman has very poor relationship with his daughter, Chelsea, and as the movie progresses, he learns to let people in again through his interaction with her new stepson
 - Norman has a good relationship for the most part with Ethel but they've fallen out of step recently, and he finds himself questioning why she even loves him anymore

TheCaseSolutions.com

Family Ties

- One of the most important factors in Chelsea's estrangement is her distance from her parents
 - Although where exactly she lived is not known, Chelsea hasn't been to see her family in years
 - "There is a higher cost at maintaining relationships and providing support at greater distances" (Guo, et al., 2011)

TheCaseSolutions.com