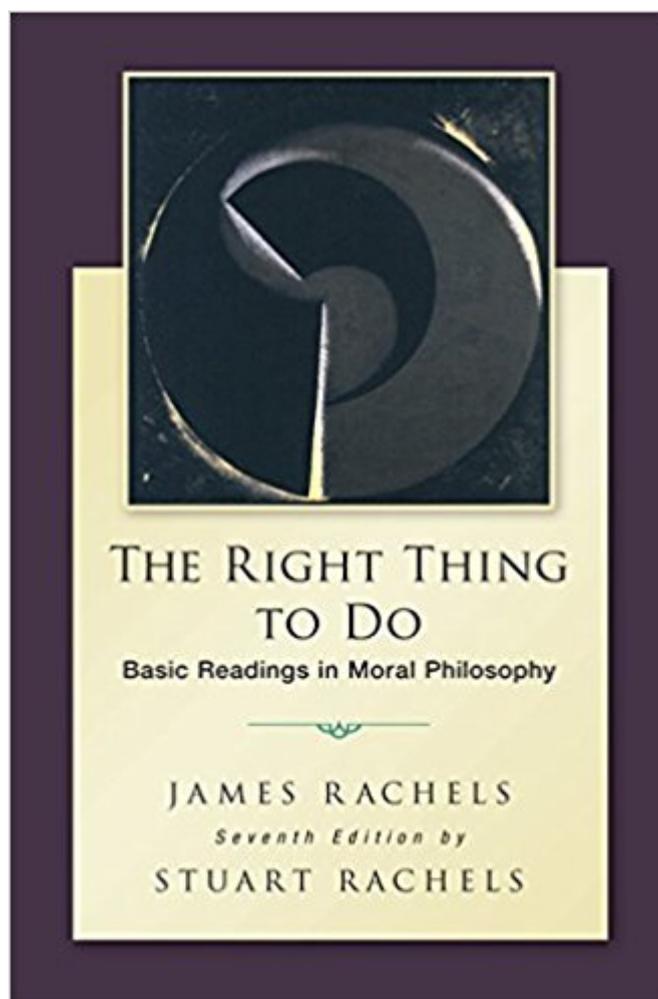


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# The Right Thing To Do: Basic Readings In Moral Philosophy



## Synopsis

The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy is a companion reader to the best-selling text: The Elements of Moral Philosophy (0-07-8119065). Authors James Rachels and Stuart Rachels offer engaging, thought-provoking essays on compelling issues that students are familiar with and understand. This rich collection of essays can be used on its own for a course on moral philosophy, or it can be used to supplement other introductory texts. Instructors and students can now access their course content through the Connect digital learning platform by purchasing either standalone Connect access or a bundle of print and Connect access. McGraw-Hill Connect<sup>™</sup> is a subscription-based learning service accessible online through your personal computer or tablet. Choose this option if your instructor will require Connect to be used in the course. Your subscription to Connect includes the following:

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## Customer Reviews

James Rachels, the distinguished American moral philosopher, was born in Columbus, Georgia, graduating from Mercer University in Macon in 1962. He received his Ph.D. in 1967 from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He taught at the University of Richmond, New York University, the University of Miami, Duke University, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he spent the last twenty-six years of his career. 1971 saw the publication of Rachels's groundbreaking textbook *Moral Problems*, which ignited the movement in America away from teaching ethical theory towards teaching concrete practical issues. *Moral Problems* sold 100,000 copies over three editions. In 1975, Rachels wrote "Active and Passive Euthanasia," arguing that the distinction so important in the law between killing and letting die has no rational basis. Originally appearing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, this essay has been reprinted roughly 300 times and is a staple of undergraduate education. *The End of Life* (1986) was about the morality of killing and the value of life. *Created from Animals* (1990) argued that a Darwinian world-view has widespread philosophical implications, including drastic implications for our treatment of nonhuman animals. *Can Ethics Provide Answers?* (1997) was Rachels's first collection of papers (others are expected posthumously). Rachels's McGraw-Hill textbook, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, is now in its fourth edition and is easily the best-selling book of its kind. Over his career, Rachels wrote 5 books and 85 essays, edited 7 books and gave about 275 professional lectures. His work has been translated into Dutch, Italian, Japanese, and Serbo-Croatian. James Rachels is widely admired as a stylist, as his prose is remarkably free of jargon and clutter. A major theme in his work is that reason can resolve difficult moral issues. He has given reasons for moral vegetarianism and animal rights, for affirmative action (including quotas), for the humanitarian use of euthanasia, and for the idea that parents owe as much moral consideration to other people's children as they do to their own. James Rachels died of cancer on September 5th, 2003, in Birmingham, Alabama. STUART RACHELS is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Alabama. He has revised several of James Rachels's books, including *Problems from Philosophy* (second edition, 2009) and *The Right Thing to Do* (fifth edition, 2010), which is the companion anthology to this book. Stuart won the United States Chess Championship in 1989, at the age of 20, and he is a Bronze Life Master at bridge. His website is [www.jamesrachels.org/stuart](http://www.jamesrachels.org/stuart).

excellent product as described.

It was a text book i was required to get for school and given the choice I would have not bought it

willingly. It is not something I will not read again but all the same was mildly interesting and it's subjects give much food for thought.

Very interesting, it is a requirement for the course I am taking in college Ethics. It is a very good book. If you have never taken an ethics class this book and The Elements of Moral Philosophy its companion book are a must.

This book provides a detailed analysis of the moral and ethical problems that our world faces. There are relatable examples that make learning moral theory fun and even provocative. This book is a great read for those that want to learn the moral theories that have been considered by centuries of philosophers. The idea that deciding exactly what the right thing to do has stumped mankind since the beginning of time is one worth pondering.

good

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