*Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?* is a full transcript of Michael Sandel’s courses on justice in Harvard, which have earned him the title of “one of the most popular teachers in the world”. The book aims to provide readers with a thorough exploration into the definition of justice and righteousness. By giving vivid examples and quoting abundant philosophers’ theories, from Immanuel Kant in the eighteenth century to John Rawls in the twentieth century, Sandel challenges both our convictions and what is widely recognized as common sense and those notions we still take a grain of salt with. In this book, Sandel not only builds up an abstract theoretical system, but also holds up a mirror to the society and reflects something specific as well.

Many of the given cases and examples in the book trap readers into dilemmas where none of the choices seem to be the so-called best answer to the question. However, better than making fool of readers through tricky situations, Sandel is actually leading readers to think, judge and evaluate whether an action can be called justified in three perspectives—welfare, freedom and virtue. These three perspectives are the main standards of a justice evaluation. What Sandel promotes is that justice should be morally acceptable, and the emphasis on morality can be found throughout his thoughts and philosophies toward economic, political and public life. He holds the belief that justice is not only about the distribution of capitals, but also about how we treat and evaluate things. Politics that’s morality-based is essential for a society of justice.

*Justice* isn’t strictly catalogued as a philosophy work. Nor does it always provide a final answer. However, I’ll definitely recommend this book because it helps break our mindsets, stereotypes and boundaries in an almost disturbing way. Readers will set a brand-new principle and standard of evaluation over controversial topics after reading it.