**Using Literary Examples of “Connection to Something Greater Than Self.”**

**For elementary students:** Return to the story of “Snow White,” in which both Snow White AND the dwarfs decide to add service to each other in their lives. Neither the dwarfs nor Snow White asks a lot in return, but they all dedicate themselves to helping each other.

**For secondary students:** Use the story “Gift of the Magi.” Mentions that many people see this story as a great example of the idea, “It’s better to give than to receive.” And the story does start with each newlywed sacrificing something of great personal value to give the other a special Christmas present. When the presents are opened, the husband finds that the beautiful hair comb he has bought for his wife, by sacrificing his valuable pocket watch, will have to wait because she has sacrificed and sold her long hair to buy him a chain for his pocket watch. Had the husband reacted to his wife when he saw her scrawny hair cut to afford the pocket watch chain with derision, disgust, with insults about her looks, he would have ruined the giving of her gift. And if the wife had cried or thrown down the comb because it was useless after she had cut her hair and couldn’t use her gift since he had sold the watch, the entire story of giving would have been ruined.

Instead, the two accepted their gifts with grace, making the point that when you do something that shows your concern for the other, despite your disappointment that you gave a gift that was not of value, that sacrifice, and the appreciative response anyway, could be the greatest gift of all.