>> Yann Martel: I have very found memories of my days studying philosophy at Trent University and discussing questions that I have never asked myself before. What is the good? What is beauty? What is right? What is wrong? What is reality? These aren’t questions that as an 18 year old I’d asked myself and I found them wholly engaging, they actually lit up my mind. So, I remember these incredible discussions we had and in short order I decided to major in philosophy and so in the years that followed I remember these extraordinary thinkers that we read and discussed - Locke, Berkeley, Hume, J.L. Austin, A.J. Ayer - discussing ethics, aesthetics. I remember thinking that this is what everyone should study at a certain level and in fact I think a lot of the dysfunctions in our society today are due to a citizenry that hasn’t thought enough about the fundamental questions the philosophy asks. So, far from being basket weaving as is some of the humanities are dismissed. In fact the study of philosophy is at the core of a thinking citizen and I am grateful to Trent for having taught me some essential lessons in life. Which, you know, still to this day, to be honest I’ve forgotten the details of some of the thinkers but that critical way of thinking I got at Trent University. I’m glad you’re at Trent University. I had a wonderful time there. It’s a beautiful campus; lovely setting and the teachers there really, really lit me up.