

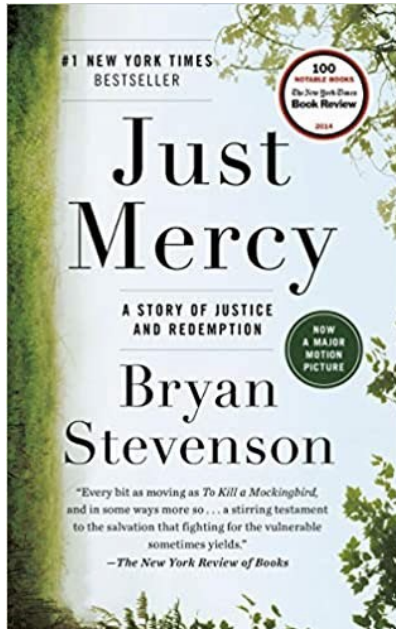
PEMSA/PWMSA

Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition (sophomores)

Required Summer 2021 Reading Assignment

Due Date: Monday, August 23rd (first full day of school)

Point Value: 50 points (Formative Assessment Category)



Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

ISBN: 9780812984965 (Available on Amazon or at Barnes and Noble)

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Winner of the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction • Winner of the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction • Winner of a Books for a Better Life Award • Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize • Finalist for the *Kirkus Reviews* Prize • An American Library Association Notable Book

NOTE: Late work will receive a 10% deduction for each school day past the original deadline.

Part 1: Annotation Expectations

Purchase and read the ENTIRE book over the summer and annotate the text using your preferred method:

- Write in the book
- Use Post-It notes
- Keep a written or typed journal with your annotations that are labelled by chapter and page number

You are expected to be actively annotating throughout the entire book. After all, strong readers keep their pen in their hand ready to mark important excerpts and their thoughts while reading. At minimum, you should have AT LEAST 5-6 annotations per chapter.

What should I annotate for?

1. Ideas about the **THEME** of the text as well as what you think the **AUTHOR'S MESSAGE** is about the topic.
2. The **LANGUAGE** choices being made by the author: **TONE, DICTION, AUTHOR'S STYLE, PHRASING** and **SENTENCE STRUCTURE**, etc.
3. The **CULTURAL CONNECTIONS** that can be made to the text: thoughts on how you think the text comments on situations happening in society.

Part 2: Reading Journal

For EACH of the 16 chapters (and the Epilogue), you are required to write a well-developed journal entry. Every entry must include the following:

- A developed paragraph (at least 6-8 sentences)
- It's best to write each entry when you finish a chapter to get your immediate thoughts rather than waiting until the end
- Your journal entries must be TYPED on a Word document with each chapter labelled.

Expectations for Higher Grade Earning Journals (A or high B)

1. Analyze the text for the usage and effectiveness of different **RHETORICAL TECHNIQUES** (tone, diction, structure, style, imagery, etc.) and how they help show the **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE** for writing the text.
2. Make connections between the **TEXT** and **SOCIETAL ISSUES, THEMES**, and/or the **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**.
3. Raise questions about the **BELIEFS** and **VALUES** expressed by the text.

Expectations for Lower Grade Earning Journals (low B or C)

1. Give your **PERSONAL REACTIONS** to each passage.
2. Discuss the **WORDS, IDEAS, and/or ACTIONS** of the author and/or characters
3. Describe what the text reminds you of in **your own experiences**
4. Write down what the text makes you **THINK** and **FEEL**.

The **COMPLETED** journal entries are due on the **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**.

If you have any questions about this assignment as you complete it, please reach out to your teacher via email for help.