

111 Honors American Literature 2020 Summer Reading Assignment

Text and Assignments

- Read *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Bryan Stevenson). You will have a test on this novel the first week of school.
- Annotate the novel according to the guidelines below.
- Complete a typed personal narrative writing assignment based on ONE of the options below. Your narrative is due on the **first day of school, August 3, 2020**, and will be scanned for plagiarism detection through Turn It In.

Annotations

Inside Front Cover- Make a list of the following people:

Avery Jenkins	Ian Manuel	Mrs. Williams
Bill Hooks	Joe Sullivan	Ralph Myers
Bryan Stevenson	Johnny D	Robert E. Lee Key
Charlie	Karen Kelly	Rhonda Morrison
Clay Cast	Marsha Colbey	Rosa Parks
Darnell Houston	Bridgett Lee	Stevenson's Mom
Herbert Richardson	Michael O'Connor	Trina Garnett
Horace Dunkins	Mrs. Jennings	Walter McMillian

As you read- Make notes in the margins about the people listed above as you read. For review purposes, you may wish to put the page number where the person appears in the text next to his/her name on the inside cover.

Inside Back Cover- For each of the following, write a statement that clearly identifies the argument Bryan Stevenson makes regarding the topic.

The criminal justice system	Capital punishment	Legal representation
Poverty	Race	Female prisoners
Juvenile offenders	Prisoners with mental and intellectual disabilities	

Personal Narrative Writing Assignment

Option 1

In a presentation to students at Penn State Abington, Bryan Stevenson remarked, "Hope is your superpower. Don't let anybody or anything make you hopeless. Hope is the enemy of injustice.... Hope is what will get you to stand up when people tell you to sit down."

In a well-developed narrative, discuss a time when hope worked as a superpower in your life. Explore the extent to which your hopefulness impacted the outcome of your situation, whether it was positive or negative. You should focus on the event; do not retell your life story.

Option 2

At the beginning of his review of *Just Mercy*, Professor of Law William W. Berry III provides the following quote from Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*: "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do." Throughout *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson epitomizes courage as he faces his fears, overcomes obstacles, and continues to fight for prison reform.

In a well-developed narrative, discuss a time when you were courageous and explain how your courage impacted the outcome of your situation, whether it was positive or negative. You should focus on the event; do not retell your life story.

Option 3

Bryan Stevenson remembers his grandmother telling him throughout his childhood, "You can't understand most of the important things from a distance, Bryan. You have to get close." Throughout the novel, readers see Stevenson getting close to issues of punishment and mass incarceration in various ways that impact his life in both positive and negative ways. He does not allow fear, anger, or distance to deter his commitment to helping indigent, incarcerated people.

In a well-developed narrative, discuss a time when you were able to get close to an issue and explain the impact this experience had on you. You should focus on the event; do not retell your life story.

Option 4

In a well-developed narrative, discuss a social issue that is important to you. Like Bryan Stevenson does in his novel, explain how and why you have developed a passion for this movement. You should focus on one event that defines the origin of your passion.

Your typed narrative will be graded using the rubric on the next page. Content of the narrative must be school appropriate.

We will continue to discuss *Just Mercy* throughout the first few weeks of school, focusing on selected passages and literary elements as we establish expectations for analytical writing and classroom discussion. **You are expected to bring the annotated text, the typed personal narrative assignment, and the narrative rubric to class on the first day of school, Monday, August 3, 2020. If you do not have a printed copy of the text, you may bring your annotations on a separate piece of paper.**

111 Honors American Literature Summer Reading Narrative Rubric

Name: _____

Circle the writing option you chose: 1 2 3 4

100 Points (Quiz x 2)		Points Earned
Content (60 points)	-Details, clues, and evidence come together to develop a clear impression of the significance of the event -Evidence of reflection and investigation into the incident/event	
Clarity/Conventions/Format (30 points)	-Essay is clearly written with few minor mistakes that do not interfere with reader’s understanding. -Essay is in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, MLA formatted (heading, header, etc.).	
Organization (10 points)	-A narrative thread unites the various pieces of evidence. -Essay begins with a something to peak the reader’s interest (NOT a “Since the beginning of time” statement) -Essay ends in a conclusion that completes the portrait of the subject and explains why the event is important to you or how you have been affected/influenced by the event/topic you chose.	

Total: _____/100 points

Summer reading assignments must be completed individually and without the use of online sources or study aides. Students who commit an infraction of the Honor Code will receive a grade of zero on the assignment, an N in conduct for this semester in 111 Honors American Literature, and an administrative referral.

I understand and have followed the guidelines in the statement above:

Student Signature _____