

2016 Summer Reading Assignment  
English Department  
Grades 11-12

For students entering Grades 11 and 12 in Fall 2016:

The Summer Reading Committee has chosen the following book for your summer reading requirement. In addition, you will be expected to complete the writing assignments below. A rubric is included for your reference. These assignments are due the first day of school. We hope you enjoy this book.

**“Just Mercy: A Story of Justine and Redemption” by Bryan Stevenson**

What is the one commonality of people on death row? If the victim is white, the perpetrator is 11 times more likely to be condemned to die than if the victim is black. When Stevenson was a 23-year-old Harvard law student, he started an internship in Georgia where his first assignment was to deliver a message to a man living on death row. This assignment became his calling: representing the innocent, the inadequately defended, the children, the domestic abuse survivors, the mentally ill—the imprisoned. This fast-paced book reads like a John Grisham novel. One of those profiled, Walter, was at a barbecue with over 100 people at the time of the murder he was accused of, and spent more than six years on death row. The stories include those of children, teens, and adults who have been in the system since they were teens. This is a title for the many young adults who have a parent or loved one in the prison system and the many others who are interested in social justice, the law, and the death penalty.

**Assigned Novel for Grades 11-12:**

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* Bryan Stevenson  
<http://www.amazon.com/Just-Mercy-Story-Justice-Redemption/dp/081298496X>  
<http://bryanstevenson.com/the-book/>

**Assignment for Grades 11-12:**

**Part 1. Reading Report**

Choose **one** of the following questions to answer in depth in an essay. Be sure to include a substantial amount of relevant evidence from the novel in your essay. Your essay should be one to two pages in length, typed and double-spaced, in Times New Roman size 12 font.

Option 1. Describe a memorable passage from the book, including at least 3 details from that passage. This passage should be about a character’s *thoughts or feelings* in response to another person or event in the story.

Why is this passage significant to the story?  
Why is it significant to you?

Option 2. Relate one character or one event in the story to your personal experience by describing that character or event and then describing a personal experience that happened to you or someone you know.

How did that personal experience help you to understand that character or event?  
How was that character or event in the novel similar to –or different from—the actual experience?

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Option 3. Relate one of the following themes to at least one character and one event in the novel:

- justice
- mercy
- prejudice

Where and in whom is your chosen theme evident in the novel?

How is that theme addressed?

What message does the writer seem to be conveying in that theme?

## **Part 2. Creative Project**

*Instructions:* From the following activities, choose and complete ONE activity. All activities must be completed and submitted when we return to school in August.

### **A. Comic book/manga/graphic novel**

*Construct a multi-page visual and text based document that demonstrates the following*

1. Important scenes/events - multiple panels demonstrating understanding of the plot, characters, setting, etc.
2. Characters - interpret characters from the text through detailed illustrations
3. Captions/Text - use of text, words, dialogue to synthesize the arc of significant characters
4. Background/Landscape/props - Illustrations that represent the setting(s) of the text

### **B. Video (news report, short film, TED talk, puppet theater, stop motion, etc.)**

*Create a 2+ min. video demonstrating an understanding of the text with an awareness to*

1. Visual - Clarity of characters/plot, setting, etc.
2. Audio - Clarity of voice, background sound, music, etc.
3. Presence/Movement - Intentional movement, gestures, use of the frame to tell the story
4. Props/Objects - Use of props to strengthen delivery

### **C. Book Starter Kit/Book in a Box/Scrapbook**

*Construct an object that symbolically demonstrates your understanding of the text*

1. Important scenes/events
2. Characters - interpret characters from the text
3. Captions/Text - use of text, words, etc. to synthesize the arc of significant characters
4. Background/Landscape/props - Illustrations that represent the setting(s) of the text

### **D. Book to Film Soundtrack**

*Construct an audiovisual product (slide presentation, video, scrapbook/booklet, etc.) that demonstrates your understanding of the text through an application of the themes of the chosen text*

1. Which songs, when they would play in the film, which aspect does the song connect to/represent
2. Lyrics, audio that connects to characters, setting, plot, etc.

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**SUMMER READING 2016 EVALUATION RUBIC Grades 11-12**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ /50

Assignments	<b>EXCELLENT (25-20)</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY (19-15)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (14-10) MISSING (0)</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>Assignment I: Reading Report</b> I. Passage describing a person's response to an event (thoughts and feelings) OR II. One interesting person or event related to personal experience OR III. Relation of one theme to a character and event in the novel	The Reading Report provides a well-detailed answer to the question chosen and shows a perceptive understanding of the characters, events, and themes of the novel.	The Reading Report provides an adequately detailed answer to the question chosen and demonstrates a basic understanding of the characters, events, and themes of the novel.	The Reading Report provides an inadequate answer to the question chosen; details are scarce and do not show an adequate understanding of the characters, events, or themes of the novel.	
<b>Assignment II: Creative Project</b> <b>C. A. Comic book/manga/graphic novel</b> <b>B. Video</b> <b>C. Book Starter Kit/Book in a Box/Scrapbook</b> <b>D. Book to Film Soundtrack</b>	Product provides the audience substantial evidence of a thorough understanding of text. Product shows textual evidence, organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	Product provides the audience adequate evidence of a basic understanding of text. Product shows textual evidence, organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	Product provides the audience minimal evidence of a basic understanding of text. Product shows little textual evidence, poor organization of ideas and components, clarity in visual and audio (if applicable), and/or consideration of mechanics in the written or spoken word.	

**N.B. Grades earned for this project will be factored into the first term grade in English.**