

## Teaching Example:

### Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (Bryan Stevenson)



**Based on:** Chapter 2: "Stand" (pp. 35-46)\* / Movie: *Just Mercy*  
(directed by Destin Daniel Cretton)\*\*

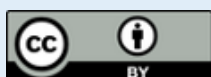
Created by: Lena Wollschlaeger

### Plot Summary of the Chapter:

Bryan Stevenson gains further popularity as an advocate and his caseload increases weekly. After returning from work late one night, two SWAT officers illegally and unreasonably search him and his car. Having filed a complaint at the Atlanta police department, his concerns only end in an apology from the police director. Sharing his awful incident with police brutality at a community event, an old man tells him to "beat the drum for justice", motivating Stevenson to finally open his Alabama death row office.

### Overview of Lesson Design:

Phase / Teaching Activity / Impulse	Material
<b>Introduction:</b> The student watch a scene from the movie and are asked to examine the behavior of the police officers, i.e. what particularly catches their attention. The impressions are subsequently collected on a Conceptboard. The teacher introduces the topic of police brutality in the United States and the American Legal System.	Film excerpt (55:00-63:00) Concept-board
<b>Activity:</b> In expert groups, student scan the respective passages from the book and answer questions on the worksheet. Their findings are presented in a 2- to 3-minute presentation. The findings are collected on the Conceptboard by teacher. In a round of flashlight, the students are asked to collect the most striking aspects about white police brutality.	Worksheet 1, Concept-board
<b>Transfer:</b> The students are asked to change perspectives by writing a letter addressed to Stevenson in which they comment on the issue of white police brutality and their emotional response to his story. They are also asked to assess whether this kind of police brutality exists in Germany as well. The letters are posted on the Conceptboard.	Worksheet 2, Concept-board
<b>Target Competence(s):</b> <i>Funktionale kommunikative Kompetenz (Leseverstehen, Schreiben), interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz, Text- und Medienkompetenz</i>	



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\*Stevenson, Bryan. 2020. "Chapter Six: Surely Doomed", in: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. London: Scribe Publications, pp. 115-26.

\*\*Cretton, Destin Daniel (Director). 2020. *Just Mercy* [Film]. Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.