



EXPERT PUZZLE

In four groups, please **scan*** the corresponding text passage to the movie scene (55:00 to 63:00) you have just seen (Bryan Stevenson’s *Just Mercy*, pp. 39-41). Read the text on your own and then discuss your expert question together with your group. You should prepare a 2/3-minute presentation which includes your results.



Hint: If you need vocabulary help, use the **annotations**.

Expert group 1): What is Bryan Stevenson doing when the police car approaches and points a light at him? Does he think that there must be something wrong about his own behavior?

At night, Bryan Stevenson has arrived at his house and is sitting in his car, listening to the song *Stand by Sly*. He is singing along to the song when an Atlanta SWAT car approaches and directly points a spotlight at him. Bryan Stevenson is confused and has no explanation for the police’s strange behavior (his music is not too loud; he has not done anything illegal). He doesn’t know how to react because nothing happened, so he decides to get out of his car.

Expert group 2): What happens when Bryan Stevenson finally gets out of his car? How do the police officers act?

Stevenson thinks that getting out of the car won’t be dangerous at all because he has done nothing wrong. But as soon as he opens the car door, one of the officers draws a weapon and points it at him. They shout at him and threaten him by claiming they would blow his head off if he doesn’t move. Without any valid reason, they search him and his car in a highly aggressive and offensive manner. The officers don’t even explain him why they are searching and menacing him.

Expert group 3): How does Bryan Stevenson feel during his encounter with the police? How does he behave?



Bryan Stevenson is deeply alarmed and terrified. He tells the police officers that everything is alright, but they don’t even pay attention to his words. He is afraid but still very cooperative, knowing that he has not committed any kind of crime. His voice is shaking, and he is in disbelief about the strange and unjustified behavior of the police officers.

Expert group 4): Is the behavior of the police justified or even legal? Why? Why not? How do the neighbors react?

Being a lawyer, Bryan Stevenson is quite informed about his own rights. The search of his car is illegal and unjustified. He is intimidated and terrified without any valid reason and he is aware of this fact. In addition to that, the neighbors assume that he must be the burglar committing burglaries in the district. They even tell the police officers to look for specific things that have been stolen in his car. It becomes clear that the strange behavior of the police and the neighbors must be related to something else than “just” a robbery.



*** Scanning - Important hints¹:**

What does ‘scanning a text’ mean?

When you **scan** a text, you are not reading the text in detail in order to understand the whole meaning but rather look for **really specific information**. You **do not** need to understand every single word, **scanning** means **selecting the important information** that you need in order to answer your expert question.

How do I scan a text? – Three rules

Read your question attentively.

Keep the question in mind when reading the text.

Highlight/ Underline the information that you are looking for.

¹ Adapted from: Alter, Grit. 2018. “Lesen und Leseverstehen.” In: Christiane Lütge (ed.). *Englisch Methodik*. Berlin: Cornelsen Verlag: 71-72.

