

## Chapter 6: “Surely Doomed” – Expected Results

### Worksheet 1:

**Charlie's story is told by B. Stevenson. Discuss whether parts of the story are very private and should be left out. Take into account how the story would change if these parts were left out and whether this would change your emotional involvement as reader.**

- *Brian Stevenson talked about Charlie’s abuse which can be considered a private matter.*
- *It is okay for Stevenson to write about Charlie’s abuse because this gives the reader first-hand information about the problems arising from children being tried as adults. Stevenson’s book serves as non-fictional account about the vulnerable position of children in adult facilities and circumstances which can cause children like Charlie to end up in adult prison. If Charlie’s rape would have been left out the dangers children face in adult prison wouldn’t be shown holistically.*
- *Stevenson has no right to write about Charlie’s abuse because it is not his story to share. Charlie is in a vulnerable position and might want to forget his traumatic experience.*

**Outline the characteristics of the murder victim which made the prosecutor argument for Charlie to be tried as an adult. Discuss whether you find it fair.**

*The murder victim was a police officer.*

*It doesn’t seem fair to change Charlie’s conviction just because the murder victim was a police officer because:*

- *Every life is worth the same.*
- *Even police officers can be abusive.*
- *He wasn’t killed while functioning as a police officer.*

*It seems fair to change Charlie’s conviction just because the murder victim was a police officer because police officers do special services for the country.*

**Discuss whether Charlie deserved mercy even if he killed a man.**

*Yes, Charlie deserves mercy because he is just a child. He thought his mother had passed away and acted out of emotion. He has no prior offences and was a victim himself.*

*No, Charlie doesn’t deserve mercy because he is old enough to know about the consequences of his actions. He shouldn’t have killed his stepfather despite his wrong doings. Charlie did not act in self-defence but out of vengeance.*



## Worksheet 2:

### 1) Outline the information Brian Stevenson gives about the juvenile justice system in the United States in chapter six of *Just Mercy*.

- *Children can be tried as adults in the U.S.*
- *Children can receive a death penalty.*
- *Alabama holds the world’s highest per-capita rate of juvenile death sentences.*
- *The Supreme Court banned the execution for crimes committed by children under 15.*
- *If tried as adults, children serve their sentence in adult prison.*
- *Children who are endangered in adult prison can be moved into a single cell.*
- *Children in adult prison can be victims of sexual assault and violence.*

### 2) Outline the information about children being prosecuted as adults that are given in the text.

- *Children are different from adults.*
  - a. *Children are more vulnerable.*
  - b. *Children are more emotional / impulsive.*
  - c. *Children can’t remove themselves from unsafe living conditions.*
  - d. *Children are more likely to change growing up (mature).*
  - e. *The brain of children under 14 is not fully developed. This makes them even more vulnerable and less responsible in comparison to teenagers.*
- *Children in adult prison often suffer from untreated mental illness and have little coping mechanisms.*
- *Adult jail can worsen children’s mental condition.*
- *Children believe in the need to obey authority and are therefore vulnerable in court situations and can be easily intimidated. This can lead to false confessions.*
- *Children aren’t competent to stand trial (they have limited understanding of the law or the processes of trial).*

