



OER Info Sheet



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Info sheet for
teachers

Teaching Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* (2014): Focus Chapter 6

Description:

This teaching material was designed for teaching Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* – Chapter 6 “Surely Doomed” in the EFL classroom. The package includes multiple worksheets with a solution key, and a caricature that can be used in class.

Main target group / level

Grade / year 10-13
(Einführungsphase, Qualifikationsphase)

Unterrichtsziele (Learning Goals)

Indem die Schüler*innen mittels einer Schreibdiskussion verschiedene Aspekte der *child prosecution* am Beispiel des Charakters Chalie aus *Just Mercy* diskutieren und reflektieren, fördern sie funktionale kommunikative Kompetenz (Schreiben) und ihre interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz.

Why is this topic important for TEFL?

Chapter six of Brian Stevenson's *Just Mercy* could be taught when talking about **racism and African Americans in the United States**. These topics include **historic perspectives** as well as **references to the present** and could be discussed when teaching on the topic of “**Regional Identities**” mandated in the curriculum. The curriculum requires students to learn basic knowledge about day-to-day culture, **problems of young adults** growing up in the target culture as well as their social and cultural conditions. Teaching **life writing** can offer a unique perspective into another person's life. Seeing the experience of others in new cultural settings through their perspective creates **awareness** for their struggles, motivations, conflicts, or beliefs. This awareness in turn challenges presumptions made by students and can in turn help them to reflect on their own outlook on life. Discussing stories like Charlie's in *Just Mercy* are crucial when talking about **discrimination, racism, and the prison system** in the **United States**.

Main competence(s)

- Reading
- Intercultural Communicative Competence

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Notes:

It is advised to familiarize the students with the topic of mass incarceration in the U.S. As textual input on this topic an excerpt (p. 14-16) from the introduction of *Just Mercy* could be read in class in the previous lesson.

Due to Copyright issues, the text for M4 has to be inserted by the teacher after download. The instruction for this can be found in M4.

Students should be made aware of the sensitive topics in the chapter such as racism, abuse, and trauma before reading and discussing the chapter.

Learning contexts

Expected prior knowledge

- Chapter six has to be read prior to the lesson.
- The reading journal has to be filled out as homework prior to the lesson.
- Students should be familiar with the topic of mass incarceration.

Possible contexts of use

- Fachanforderungen SH: “Regional Identities”: “Democracy in Action”, “Power and Corruption” (MSB-SH, 2014:51)
- Fachanforderungen SH: “The Individual and Society” (MSB-SH, 2014:51)
- Korridorthema: “African Americans: Free at last? Equal at last?”

Materials / tools / resources

M1: Reading journal

M2: Caricature

M3: Worksheet (Groupwork)

M4: Worksheet research activity

M5: Annotations Chapter Six

M6: Expected results

M7: Just Mercy OER Template