

Teaching Example:  
**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** (Bryan Stevenson)



Based on: Chapter 8: "All God's Children" (pp. 147-62)\*

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### Plot Summary of the Chapter:

In this chapter, Bryan Stevenson tells the stories of several children who were prosecuted in the criminal justice system of the United States. Stevenson presents their life, the crime they committed and their experiences with the court and prison system. He also lays out the historical, societal and legal background of the arguably harsh sentences they received. He then briefly recounts how he became involved with their cases and the relationship he has developed with them as his clients.

### Overview of Lesson Design:

Phase / Teaching Activity / Impulse	Material
<b>Introduction:</b> The students recount the biographies of the minors sentenced to life in prison who are presented in the text. In an in-class discussion, they speculate about possible social factors that could influence a judge's decision to sentence children.	Concept-board
<b>Activity 1:</b> The students gather in expert groups, each focused on one of the children, to discuss which of these social factors were present in their lives and how. Afterwards, they present their findings to the class.	Chapter 8 (pp. 147-62)
<b>Transfer:</b> The students then pair up to think about the reasons why the prejudices surrounding these social factors developed in the way they did. Afterwards, the students are given a worksheet as homework.	Worksheet
<b>Target Competence(s):</b> <i>Interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz, funktionale kommunikative Kompetenz (Sprechen)</i>	



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\*Based on: Stevenson, Bryan. 2020. "Chapter Eight: All God's Children", in: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. London: Scribe Publications, pp. 147-62.