

Silas Mehrens – A Lesson on Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* (Chapter 8)

Background:

- abusive father (sexual & physical)
- early death of mother
- mostly unsupervised
- ingested lighter fuel as baby
- intellectual disabilities
- ran away from home
- homelessness

TRINA GARNETT

Treatment through justice system:

- lawyer failed to file for incompetence
- lawyer failed to challenge sentencing as a child
- Pennsylvania laws prohibiting better sentencing
- rape by correctional officer
- separation from baby

Crime committed:

- breaking and entering
- (accidentally) starting a fire (arson)
- killing two boys (acc.) (manslaughter)

Background:

- mostly unknown
- no parental supervision

Treatment through justice system:

- lawyer poorly suggested to plea guilty
- imprisoned for life
- put into solitary confinement (for own security)
- rejection of all pleas for different treatment by victim (!)

Crime committed:

- attempted robbery
- shooting and injuring (attempted murder)

Background:

- very troubled neighborhood
- physically abusive father
- neglected as a child
- shot into stomach
- witnessed death of brother (traumatized)
- in and out of witness-protection and juvenile detention (camp)

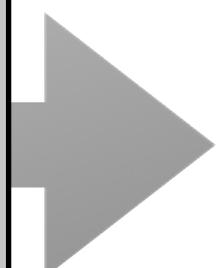
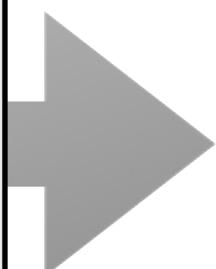
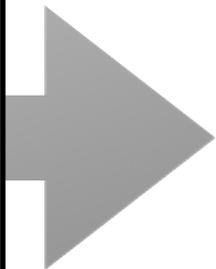
ANTONIO NUÑEZ

Treatment through justice system:

- sentenced to life imprisonment because of loop-hole in punishment for kidnappings in California

Crime committed:

- opening fire on police officers (unknowingly) (attempted murder of police officers)
- partaking in fake kidnapping (aggravated kidnapping)



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- 1) In your group **outline** the fate of one of the three children and record it in the graphic organizer.
- 2) One of each group remains seated while the rest spreads out over the other groups. **Present** to them the fate of your person. The others take notes until it’s their term.
- 3) In your new groups **compare** the three fates. Focus on similarities. What do you notice? Take notes. Present your results as a group to the class.
- 4) Write a **comment on** the fate of one of the three kids. Did the punishment fit the crime? Write between 100 and 200 words.

