

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



**Based on:** Chapter 8: "All God's Children" (pp. 147-162)\*

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**Plot Summary of the Chapter:**

Bryan Stevenson shares the stories of three of his clients who all received a life sentence for crimes they committed as children. Being children within the adult prison system they suffered incredible injustices. By presenting their cases, he opens the reader's eyes to glaring holes in the American Justice System.

**Overview of Lesson Design:**

| Phase / Teaching Activity / Impulse   | Material                        |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Introduction:</b> The teacher asks the class to discuss the following question with a partner and share the answer they agreed upon: "What kind of crime does a child need to commit in order to be put into prison for life?"   |                                 |
| <b>Activity:</b> In three expert groups, the students go through the relevant sections of the chapter and outline the fate of one of the children by means of a graphic organizer. (Trina: pp. 148-151; Ian: pp. 151-154; Antonio: pp. 154-156) In new groups, the students present their respective person and fill out the gaps in their graphic organizer. Finally, they compare the three fates with a focus on similarities in the stories. The results are presented in class. (Feedback phases between the tasks are recommended.) | Worksheet 1 (graphic organizer) |
| <b>Transfer:</b> The students are instructed to write a comment on the one of the three fates following the guiding question: "Did the punishment fit the crime?" (approx. 100-200 words).  |                                 |
| <b>Target Competence(s):</b> <i>Interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz, funktionale kommunikative Kompetenz (Leseverstehen)</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.