

Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*: Annotations of Chapter 10 "Mitigation"¹

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A

abandonment (p. 197)	to leave someone (especially children) a person is responsible for
abundantly (p. 191)	in large quantities
abuse (p. 187)	cruel or violent treatment of someone
accommodate (p. 199)	to make room for someone/something, to consider the needs of a special group
acutely psychotic (p. 190)	being strongly affected by a serious mental illness which is characterized by defective or lost contact with reality
advocate (p. 187)	someone who publicly supports someone or something
to aggravate (p. 188)	to make worse, more serious, or more severe
appeal (p. 199)	a formal request to a court or to someone in authority asking for a decision to be changed
assistance of counsel (p. 198)	person that legally advises a defendant
to authorize (p. 191)	to give official permission for something

B

biased (p. 198)	unfairly preferring one person or group over another
to bicker (p. 190)	to argue, especially about something very unimportant
to brace (p. 200)	to mentally prepare yourself for something unpleasant
to burden (p. 198)	something difficult or worrying that you are responsible for
Brown v. Board of Education (p. 193)	court decision that ruled racial segregation in public schools unlawful

¹ The annotations (page numbers) are based on the following edition of the book: Stevenson, Bryan. 2020. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. London: Scribe Publications.



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C

capital murder (p. 190)	killing a person with a special intent, when planning a murder over a long period of time, or when connected to other horrific circumstances such as murdering a police officer, murdering a child, or murdering multiple victims; punished by death penalty
cautiously (p. 196)	carefully
chuckle (p. 202)	to laugh quietly
close-cropped (p. 196)	cut very short
cognitive impairment (p. 197)	lessened ability to know, understand, or learn something
to be committed (p. 187)	to be taken in with a psychiatric unit
competency examination (p. 190)	test of a person's cognitive skills
compliance (p. 188)	when someone obey to a rule or agreement
to comply (p. 195)	to do what you have to do or are asked to do
composure (p. 195)	feeling or seeming outwardly calm
to conduct (p. 191)	to carry out a particular activity or process, especially in order to get information or prove facts
Confederate Memorial Day (p. 193)	<i>Confederate</i> : the 11 southern states of the United States during their secession from the United States between 1860 and 1865 - South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee <i>Confederate Memorial Day</i> : any of several days appointed for the commemoration of servicemen of the Confederate States of America
confinement (p. 186)	the act of putting someone in a room, prison etc that they are not allowed to leave, or the state of being there
to contend (p. 198)	to compete against someone in order to gain something
to convulse (p. 188)	if your body or a part of it convulses, it moves violently, and you are not able to control it



correctional officer (p. 194)	warden at prison
cotton (p. 192)	a plant with white hairs on its seeds that are used for making cotton cloth and thread
cowardly (p. 199)	opposite of brave
credentials (pl.) (p. 191)	someone's education, achievements, experience etc that prove they have the ability to do something
cruel (p. 199)	making someone suffer or feel unhappy
culpability (p. 198)	responsibility for wrongdoing or failure

D

death penalty (p. 191)	the legal punishment of death
death row (p. 191)	the part of a prison where prisoners who will be punished by being killed are kept
decal (p. 192)	sticker
to decline (p. 187)	decrease in quantity, numbers are lowering
to deem (p. 197)	to consider or to judge
deinstitutionalization (p. 187)	Process of restructuring psychiatric care for mentally ill that led to the incarceration of many individuals with mental illnesses, took place in the 1960s and 1970s
demeanor (p. 200)	the way someone behaves, dresses, speaks etc that shows what their character is like; AE spelling
detention (p. 189)	being kept in prison or confinement
dignity (p. 195)	being respected or deserving respect
disastrous (p. 188)	very bad
dismissive (p. 199)	refusing to consider someone or something seriously
disoriented (p. 189)	confused, not understanding what is happening around you
distraught (p. 190)	so upset and worried that you cannot think clearly
disturbing (p. 192)	worrying or upsetting



dixiecrat (p. 193)	Southern Democrat who is a supporter of the 1948 presidential ticket opposing the civil rights stand of the Democrats
driving force (p. 186)	something or someone who is powerful and has a lot of influence on the way things happen

E

to emancipate (p. 192)	to give someone the political or legal rights that they did not have before
to be embittered (p. 192)	angry, sad, or full of hate because of bad or unfair things that have happened to you
to emerge (p. 187)	to appear or come out from somewhere
encounter (p. 195)	to meet someone without planning to
episodic (p. 192)	not all the time but a change between good and bad episodes
erratic (p. 189)	something that is erratic does not follow any pattern or plan but happens in a way that is not regular
evidence (p. 191)	proof for something
to exploit (p. 189)	to treat someone unfairly by asking them to do things for you, but giving them very little in return

F

feces (pl.) (p. 190)	solid waste material from the bowels
foster care (p. 197)	a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents
to fuel (p. 186)	support or stimulate

G

to glare (p. 200)	to look angrily at someone for a long time
Greyhound (p. 189)	largest service in North America of busses serving long routes between cities
to grunt (p. 196)	to make short sounds or say a few words in a rough voice, when you do not want to talk
gun rack (p. 196)	a shelf for guns or other weapons



H

harassment (p. 196)	when someone behaves in an unpleasant or threatening way towards you
hostile (p. 194)	unfriendly, unwelcoming, threatening

I

impaired (p. 196)	being in an imperfect or weakened state or condition
impatience (p. 196)	annoyance at having to accept other people's weaknesses
incarceration (p. 186)	the act of putting someone in prison
incoherent (p. 186)	not expressed clearly and therefore, difficult to understand
incompetency (p. 191)	the lack of ability or skill to do something
incredulously (p. 201)	unwilling or unable to accept or believe something that is true
inexorably (p. 191)	synonym: unstopably
institutional care (p. 186)	a facility that provides twenty-four-hour nursing services (such as hospitals)
internment (p. 186)	the practice of keeping someone in prison without charging them with a crime
intimidation (p. 192)	the act of frightening or threatening somebody into doing something
involuntary (p. 187)	doing something that is contrary to one's own will

K

Ku Klux Klan (p. 192)	a violent secret American political organization of Protestant white men who oppose people of other races or religions
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L

loathsome (p. 200)	very unpleasant or cruel; disgusting
lynching (p. 192)	a crowd of people killing someone without legal approval or permission



M

to malinge (p. 190)	to pretend or exaggerate incapacity or illness (as to avoid duty or work)
to marginalize (p. 192)	to make a person or a group of people unimportant and powerless in an unfair way
to masquerade (p. 191)	to pretend to be someone or something different
menacing (p. 200)	making you expect something unpleasant; synonym: threatening
mentally distressed (p. 187)	mental illness that describes the disorder of emotional processes, thought or cognition that influences someone's behavior or ability to cope with situations
misguided (p. 186)	led by wrong or inappropriate motives or ideals; intended to be helpful but in fact making a situation worse
mitigation (p. 188)	a reduction in how unpleasant, harmful, or serious a situation is
to mumble (p. 195)	to say something too quietly or not clearly enough so that other people cannot understand you; synonym: to mutter
myriad (p. 188)	a great number of something; very many

O

Old South (p. 192)	the American South before the Civil War
overcrowded (p. 188)	filled with too many people or things

P

padlock (p. 195)	a removable device that you can put on a door, bicycle etc. It has a U-shaped part that is pushed into another part to close and is usually opened with a key
partial (p. 198)	of or relating to a part rather than the whole; not complete
pat-down (p. 194)	an act of passing one's hands over a person and searching for illegal items such as drugs or weapons
perilous (p. 188)	very dangerous



perspiration (p. 201)	liquid that appears on your skin when you are hot or nervous
to persuade (p. 190)	to make someone believe something; synonym: to convince
policy (p. 188)	a way of doing something that has been officially agreed on; a selected method of action to guide and determine present and future decisions
postconviction (p. 199)	refers to the legal process that takes place after a person is found guilty of a crime
post-Reconstruction era (p. 192)	refers to the time after the Reconstruction era (1865-77) The Reconstruction era describes the period of American history after the Civil War when the southern states rejoined the US. Slavery was abolished, African Americans were given the right to vote, and a few universities were established for African-American people. However, many white southerners strongly opposed these measures and some formed the Ku Klux Klan.
to predate (p. 191)	to happen or exist earlier in history than something else
pretrial (p. 193)	occurring or existing before the actual trial
prison record (p. 197)	a report on a person's prison history
profound (p. 198)	very severe; extreme
to proliferate (p. 193)	when something increases quickly and spreads to many different places
psychotropic (p. 191)	drugs that have an effect on your mind

R

recidivism (p. 189)	a tendency to fall back into a previous condition or mode of behavior
reign (p. 192)	a period during which something is the most powerful or most important feature of a place
to render (p. 199)	to officially announce a decision or judgment about something
reputation (p. 190)	the opinion that people have about someone or something because of what happened in the past
resident (p. 187)	someone who lives or stays in a particular place
to resist (p. 190)	to use force to stop something from happening



to roam (p. 189) to go from place to place without purpose or direction;
synonym: wander

to retry (p. 191) to judge a person or a law case again in court

S

segregation (p. 188) the separation or isolation of a race class or ethnic groups

seizure (p. 188) a sudden condition in which someone cannot control the
movements of their body, which continues for a short time

serious (p. 188) something that is extremely bad or dangerous

shrine (p. 192) a place that people visit and respect because it is connected
with a famous or holy person or event

to smirk (p. 195) to smile in an unpleasant way that shows that you are pleased
by someone else's bad luck or think you are better than other
people

solitary confinement (p. 189) the state of being kept alone in a prison cell away from other
prisoners

to squabble (p. 190) to argue about something unimportant

stab wound (p. 192) caused by an object that is forced into the skin (e.g. a knife)

to steer clear of sth./sb. (p. 198) to avoid someone or something unpleasant or difficult

stress-induced (p. 192) a particular physical condition caused by stress

strip-searched (p. 194) a process in which you have to remove your clothes so that
your body can be checked (e.g. for drugs)

subordinate (p. 192) placed in a lower class, rank or position

Supreme Court (p. 187) the most important court of law in some countries or some
states of the US

T

testimony (p. 198) a formal statement saying that something is true (e.g. in a court
of law)

Thorazine (p. 187) antipsychotic medication



trial (p. 190)	a legal process in which a judge and a jury examine information to decide whether someone is guilty of a crime
troubling (p. 192)	causing feelings of worry or anxiety
turmoil (p. 197)	a state or condition of extreme confusion, excitement or anxiety

U

unaided (p. 199)	without help or assistance
uncommunicative (p. 189)	unable to talk easily to other people
to uncover sth. (p. 191)	to make known; bring to light
unprecedented (p. 186)	never having happened before

V

to victimize (p. 192)	to treat someone unfairly because of their beliefs/ race/ ... to walk around without a clear direction or purpose
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W

warden (p. 194)	AE: the person who is in charge of a prison
wasp (p. 189)	a thin black and yellow flying insect that can sting you
Wendy's (p. 201)	US-founded international fast food restaurant
to withdraw (p. 192)	synonym: to remove

The annotations were designed with the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (<https://www.merriam-webster.com>) and the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (<https://www.ldoceonline.com>) and adapted by the authors.



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