**Bryan Stevenson’s *Just Mercy:*  Annotations of Chapter 14 “Cruel and Unusual”[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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**A**

**adamantly (p. 257)** (adv.) determined not to change your opinion or a decision that you have made

**to adjudicate (p. 257)** (v.) to officially decide who is right in disagreement and decide what should be done

**affluent (p. 260)** (adj.) having plenty of money, nice houses, expensive things etc.

**to apprehend (p. 256)** (v.) to arrest someone

**assailant (p. 257)** (noun) someone who attack another person

**attorney (p. 261)** (noun) a lawyer

**audibly (p. 262)** (adj.) a sound that is audible is loud enough for you to hear it

**B**

**to beam (p. 263)** (v.) to smile very happily

**to budge (p. 261)** (v.) to move or to make someone/ something move

**burglary (p. 257)** (noun) the crime of getting into a building to steal things

**C**

**condemned (p. 259)** (adj.) a condemned person is going to be punished by being killed

**counsel (p. 258)** (noun) a type of lawyer who represents you in court

**D**

**detention (p.257)** (noun) the state of being kept in prison

**disheartened (p. 260)** (adj.) disappointed, so that you lose hope and the determination to continue doing something

**to dislodge (p. 261)** (v.) to force or knock something out of its position

**E**

**extensive (p. 256)** (adj.) large in size, amount or degree

**F**

**facility (p. 257)** (noun) a place or building used for a particular activity or industry, or for providing a particular type of service

**felony (p. 256)** (noun) a serious crime such as murder

**G**

**giddily (p. 262)** (adj.) feeling silly, happy and excited, or showing this feeling

**glimpse (p. 257)** (noun) a quick look at someone or something that does not allow you to see him clearly

**to grab sth. (p. 256)** (v.) to take hold of someone or something with a sudden or violent movement

**to grunt (p. 261)** (v.) to make short sounds or say a few words in a rough voice, when you do not want to talk

**H**

**hacksaws (p. 262)** (noun) a cutting tool with small teeth on its blade, used especially for cutting metal

**I**

**immature (p. 258)** (adj.) someone who is immature behaves or thinks in a way that is typical of someone much younger – used to show disapproval

**incarceration (p. 260)** (noun) to put or keep someone in prison

**to indict (p. 257)** (v.) to officially charge someone with a criminal offense

**to interrogate (p. 257)** (v.) to ask someone a lot of questions for a long time in order to get information, sometimes using threats

**J**

**to jerk (p. 262)** (v.) to move with a quick sudden movement, or to make part of your body move this way

**L**

**legislator (p. 260)** (noun) someone who has the power to make laws or belongs to an

institution that makes laws

**M**

**merit (p. 258)** (noun) an advantage or good feature of something

**meritorious (p. 259)** (adj.) very good and deserving praise

**misdemeanor (p. 258)** (noun) a crime that is not very serious

**N**

**to neglect (p. 258)** (v.) to fail to look after someone or something properly

**P**

**parole (p. 259)** (noun) permission for someone to leave prison, on the condition that they promise to behave well

**perpetrator (p. 257)** (noun) someone who does something morally wrong or illegal

**pliers (p. 262)** (noun) a small tool made of two crossed pieces of metal, used to hold small things or to bend and cute wire

**prosecution (p. 257)** (noun) when a charge is made against someone for a crime, or when someone is judged for a crime in a court of law

**prosecutor (p. 257)** (noun) a lawyer who is trying to prove in court of law that someone is guilty of a crime

**R**

**rape (p. 256)** (noun) the crime of forcing someone to have sex, especially by using violence

**recidivist (p. 259)** (noun) a criminal who starts doing illegal things again, even after he or she has been punished

**rehearsal (p. 257)** (noun) a time when all people in a play, concert etc practice before a public performance

**to reinstate (p. 258)** (v.) to make something such as a law, system or rule exist again

**to relent (p. 262)** (v.) to change your attitude and become less strict or cruel towards someone

**S**

**seminal (p. 257)** (adj.) a seminal article, book etc is important and influences the way things develop in the future

**to suspect (p. 257)** (v.) to think that something is probably true, especially something bad

**to sustain (p. 260)** (v.) to suffer damage, an injury, or loss of money

**T**

**to tangle (p. 260)** (v.) to argue or fight with someone

**testimony (p. 257)** (noun) a formal statement saying that something is true, especially one a witness makes in a court law

**to tilt (p. 262)** (v.) to move part of your body, especially your head or chin, upwards or to the side

**to trespass (p. 258)** (v.) to go onto someone’s private land without their permission

**trusties (p. 261)** (adj.) a trusty weapon, vehicle, animal etc is one that you have had for a long time and can depend on – often used humorously

**to tug (p. 261)** (v.) to pull with one or more short, quick pulls

**U**

**utterly (p. 258)** (adv.) used especially to emphasize that something is very bad, or that feeling is very strong

**V**

**violent (p. 256)** (adj.) involving actions that are intended to injure or kill people, by hitting or shooting them.

**W**

**wedge (p. 261)** (noun) a piece of wood, metal etc. that has one thick edge and one pointed edge and is used especially for keeping a door open or for splitting wood

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 author.

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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)