



Chapter 14

OF BRYAN STEVENSON'S JUST MERCY

1. What is your first reaction to Joe’s story? Document your first reaction by writing down 2-3 sentences!

- I was shocked how Joe was treated over the years.
- I could not believe that something like this is really happening I feel sorry for Joe because no one ever gave him a chance it is good to see that Joe never loses hope.

2. Describe the character of Joe Sullivan by using the questions below.

Who is Joe Sullivan and where is he from?

- o African American with curly hair (p. 256-257)
- o Pensicola; Florida (p. 256)
- o was convinced by his friends to break into a house (p. 257)
- o has mental disabilities and can only read at a first-grade level (p. 258)



How did he grow up?

- o had experienced physical abuse by his father (p. 258)
- o had suffered severe neglect (p. 258)
- o his family has desintegrated into "abuse and chaos" (p. 258)
- o had no stable home (p. 258)
- o spent most of his time on the streets (p. 258)



Why is Joe imprisoned?

- was convinced by his friends to break into an empty house (p. 256)
- a woman who was sexually assaulted in her home and described the perpetrator as "dark colored boy" with "curly type hair" (p. 256)
- was accused by his friend of the sexual battery (p. 256)
- admitted helping the others with the burglary but denied sexual assault (p. 257)
- Police destroyed the fluid and blood they collected (p. 257) to not present it in court (p. 257)



At what age was he imprisoned?

- at the age of 13 (p. 258)

How long is he imprisoned?

- life imprisonment without the possibility of parole (p. 258)



What happens to him in prison?

- was repeatedly raped and sexually assaulted (p. 259)
- attempted suicide several times (p. 259)
- developed multiple sclerosis triggered by trauma in prison (p. 259)
- is moved with higher security protocols because he is a "lifer" (p. 262)



How does Joe react to Bryan Stevenson’s visit?

- claps his hands giddily (p. 262)
- is happy that Bryan Stevenson visits him
- smiling and very polite despite what happened a few minutes ago (p. 262)
- prepared questions for him (p. 263)
- wants to be a reporter (p. 263)
- looking forward for Bryan Stevenson's answers (p.263)
- enthusiastic and excited (p. 263)

