



# 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)