

Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*: Annotations of Chapter 14 "Cruel and Unusual"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
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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.



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 cut 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
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V

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



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