

Teaching Example:

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (Bryan Stevenson)



Based on: True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality
(directed by Peter Kunhardt)*

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Plot Summary of the Clips:

The lesson includes four clips from the documentary *True Justice*. Clips 1 to 3 focus on the personal story of R.H Hinton, a victim of injustice. They illustrate the arrest and sentencing (clip 1), the struggle for justice and appeal in court (clip 2), and the release, the life after jail, as well as a personal reflection (clip 3). Clip 4 focusses on the broader context and dissects the narrative issue of racial bias and emphasizes the necessity of a "truth and reconciliation" movement in the US.

Overview of Lesson Design:

Phase / Teaching Activity / Impulse	Material
Introduction: The students are shown words cards, pictures and definitions on the blackboard. Then, they are asked to connect the word cards with the pictures and definitions and to state their solutions.	Word-cards, pictures, definitions
Activity 1 (clips 1-3): The students are asked to state their expectations based on the title of the documentary. The students watch clips 1 to 3 with short breaks in between and are asked to summarize the scenes and to come up with a suitable title for each clip. In pairs, they discuss their findings after watching each clip. Consolidation phase: In class, the results from the chart on worksheet 1 are compared. In the end, the teacher underlines the fact that Hinton wishes for an apology and then proceeds to the last clip.	Documentary, worksheet 1, language support
Activity 2 (clip 4): In groups, the students watch clip 4 and answer the questions on the worksheet 2 about "truth and reconciliation". Based on their results, the students then discuss and reflect in an in-class discussion about the issue of the "narrative battle" and about solutions for racial inequality.	Documentary, worksheet 1

Target Competence(s): *Interkulturelle kommunikative Kompetenz*

Clips:

- Clip 1: 0:10:15 – 0:13:45
- Clip 2: 0:49:40 – 0:53:10
- Clip 3: 1:14:08 – 1:17:50
- Clip 4: 1:28:00 – 1:31:35



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*Kunhardt, Peter (Director). 2020. *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality* [Film]. HBO Documentary Films; Kunhardt Film Foundation. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfZPl4CFEUc>>