

# Olentangy Local School District

## Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Phil Callaghan

School: OOMS

Book Title: Just Mercy Adapted for Young Adults A True Story of the Fight For  
Justice Genre: Autobiography

Author: Bryan Stevenson

Pages: 288

Publisher: Delacorte Press

Copyright:9/18/18

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and Summary Citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the *New York Times* calls "as compelling as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.

Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum blueprints and/or State standards.**

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form). Reviews should suggest an appropriate grade-level or grade-band.

### Review #1

"A searing, moving and infuriating memoir . . . Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's Mandela. For decades he has fought judges, prosecutors and police on behalf of those who are impoverished, black or both. . . . Injustice is easy not to notice when it affects people different from ourselves; that helps explain the obliviousness of

our own generation to inequity today. We need to wake up. And that is why we need a Mandela in this country.”—**Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times***

Review #2

“A distinguished NYU law professor and MacArthur grant recipient offers the compelling story of the legal practice he founded to protect the rights of people on the margins of American society. . . . Emotionally profound, necessary reading.”—***Kirkus Reviews* (starred review, Kirkus Prize Finalist)**

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: The Hate U Give

Author: Angie Thomas

Title: Between the World and Me

Author: Ta-Nehisi Coates

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

A character’s father is described as an abusive, alcoholic (brief description of violent acts of kicking, punching, verbal abuse, and some of his children conceived by rape).

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated

Regular

At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading Level of this Title (if applicable): middle/high school**

**Suggested Professional Literacy Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults

**Signatures:**

**Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phil Callaghan** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 2/12 \_\_\_\_\_

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renea Bragg** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 2/12 \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Administrator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Curriculum Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_