




Summer Reading



For Students Entering 8th Grade

Summer 2023



Summer Reading Titles for Incoming 8th Graders

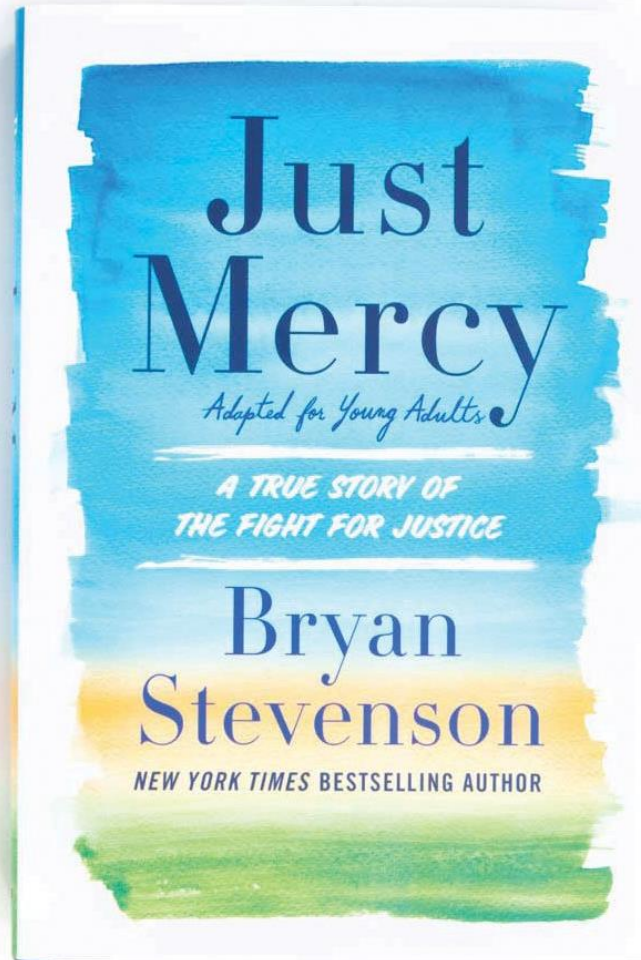
Choose **one** of the following titles:

- *Maybe He Just Likes You* (Barbara Dee)
- *A Good Kind of Trouble* (Lisa Moore Ramée)
- *Just Mercy YA* (Bryan Stevenson)
- *Level Up* (Gene Luen Yang)

Maybe He Just Likes You Barbara Dee

- ▶ After an unwanted hug from a classmate during recess, Mila suddenly finds herself the recipient of weird requests from the boys on the basketball team. One is also her fellow bandmate. What is going on?
- ▶ Mila complains, but some of her friends say she is overreacting. They say the boys are just flirting. Mila tries telling them to stop, but the unwanted attention and requests continue.
- ▶ Mila gains some self-confidence from a karate class. Then she responds to another advance by protecting herself, and now she must explain to a teacher what has been going on. Can Mila speak up for herself and be heard?

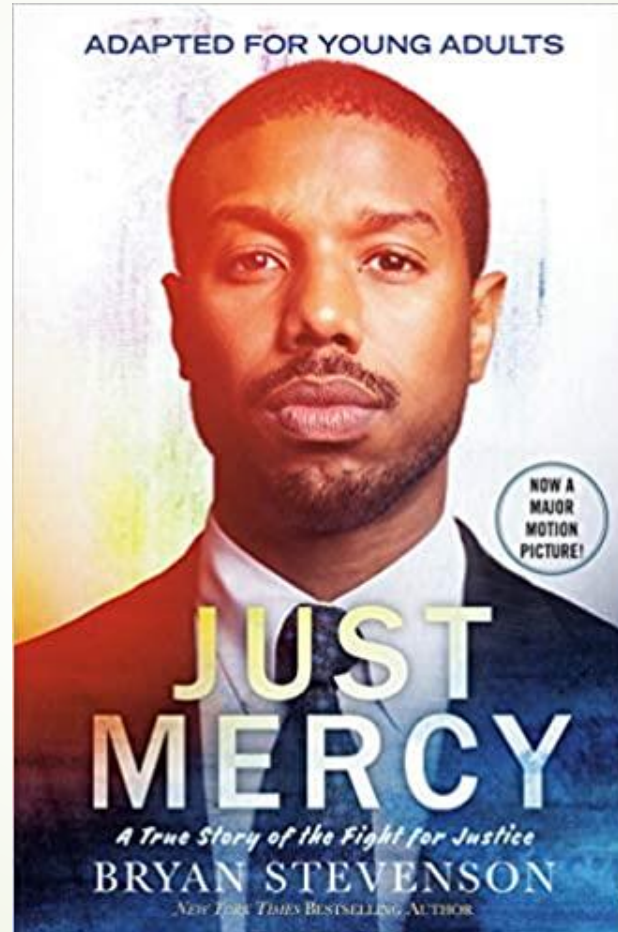




Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Adapted for YA)
by Bryan Stevenson

- ▶ Bryan Stevenson is a lawyer who started the Equal Justice Initiative.
- ▶ His book was adapted for younger readers. This is the second book on the summer reading list for students going into 7th and 8th grades next year.
- ▶ The book has been made into an excellent movie.

Cover of movie tie-in





Bryan Stevenson, Attorney and Author

Attorney Bryan Stevenson founded and is the director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Alabama.

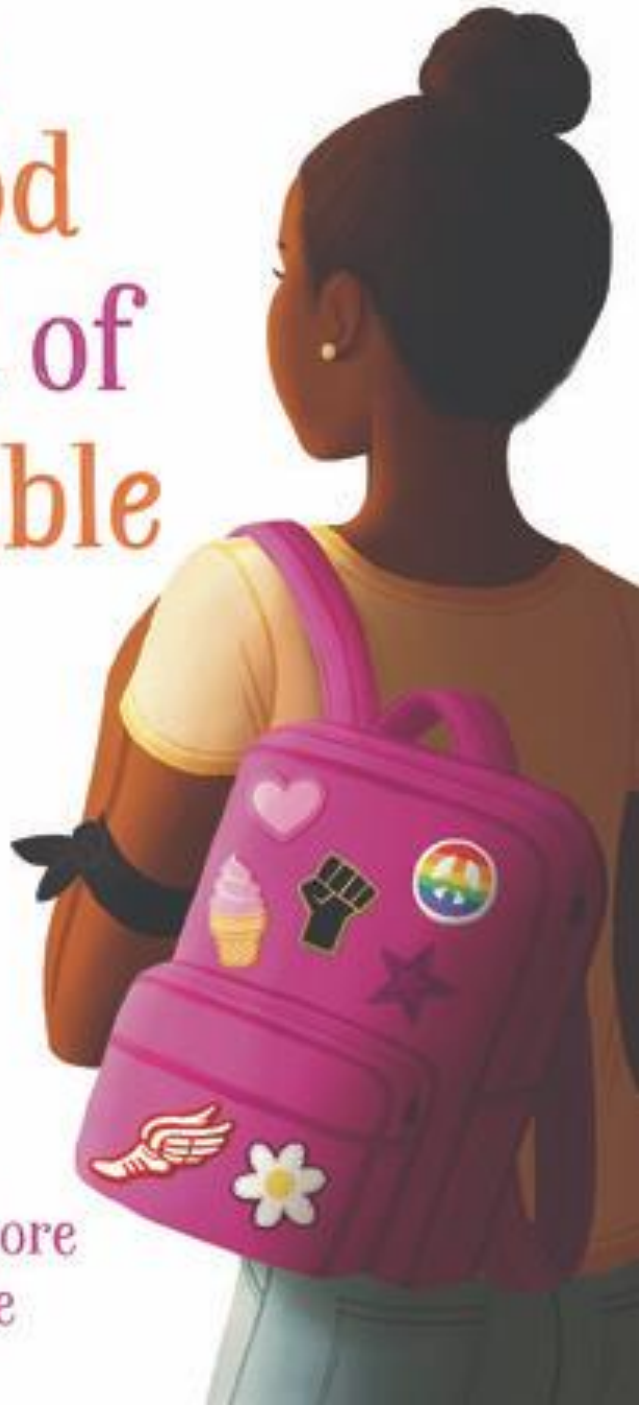
Mr. Stevenson and EJI staff have represented hundreds of people. EJI has won dozens of cases. They have won cases that ban excessive imprisonment and unfair sentencing, have exonerated 135 wrongfully condemned people on Death Row, and have exonerated hundreds of wrongly convicted people.

A 2012 case EJI brought to the Supreme Court has successfully banned mandatory life sentences for children 17 or younger.

- ▶ Stevenson's memoir tells the story of how EJI came about.
- ▶ It focuses on the powerful story of Walter MacMillan, who was wrongly accused of murder and sentenced to Death Row.
- ▶ Stevenson talks about that case as an example of an unjust system that exists not only in Alabama but around the country.
- ▶ Stevenson talks about his work here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A18RXiMPQNI&ab_channel=EqualJusticeInitiative
- ▶ And here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=002gGgbGE6U&ab_channel=DetroitPublicTV

A Good Kind of Trouble

Lisa Moore
Ramée



A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee

- ▶ Shayla is 12 and tries to stay out of trouble. She makes good grades and follows the rules. But she's learning that middle school rules are different.
- ▶ Her sister is involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, but Shay is worried about joining. Then she experiences a protest, and she decides she must take a stand. She starts wearing a black armband to school, and suddenly everyone is watching.

Level Up

Gene Luen Yang

- ▶ Dennis is a gamer who's really good at it, but his parents want him to become a doctor.
- ▶ He tries to follow his parents' wishes, but then his father dies. And Dennis just can't stay away from the video games.
- ▶ Now he's been kicked out of college. But four angels show up to help Dennis get his life back on track. Will he be able to honor his parents while following his heart?

