

BRADENTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2023 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

ENGLISH FACULTY: Dr. Leah Kliewer (department chair), Mrs. Andrea Bankston, Mr. Vincent Corvino, Mrs. Cindy Ellis, Mrs. Laura Spanos, Miss Kaitlynn Yates

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AP English Language and Composition

We will be using this textbook for the class: *The Language of Composition*. ISBN # 9780312676506. You will need this the first full week of school. Check with a previous student as there are several who would love to see theirs to you!

Note: You may choose which assignment to complete first, but one **MUST** be finished by July 10, 2023. The second assignment is due the first full day of school: August 10, 2023.

Summer Reading Assignment #1

You may drop it by the school or e-mail it to me: lkliwer@bcspanthers.org

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson You may choose to read the full novel (ISBN-13 : 978-0812984965) or the one that is adapted for young adults (ISBN-13 : 978-0525580034). Both versions include the same content, but the one for young adults does explain some of the legal terms/processes in simpler terms. Your choice!

Choose ONE of the following essay options. Your response should be 2-3 pages typed, double-spaced, with references to specific events in the book. Use page numbers or chapter references as needed.

Essay Option #1: Once Bryan Stevenson is successful in getting Walter McMillian released from death row, he feels angry rather than happy or relieved. He says, “It was far too easy to convict this wrongfully accused man and send him to death row for something he didn’t do and much too hard to win his freedom after proving his innocence.” Stevenson describes a number of cases where innocent people were convicted and sentenced to incarceration or even death. He and his team encountered strong resistance when they tried to get justice for their clients. Many people didn’t want to believe what the evidence proved--that they had a part in convicting an innocent person. • Which case described in the book do you consider to be the biggest or most upsetting miscarriage of justice? • Why is it so hard for so many people to admit that they “got it wrong” in these cases? • Why do you think is it so hard for people generally to admit when they are wrong and do what is necessary to get it right?

Essay Option #2: After Jimmy Dill was executed, Bryan Stevenson became discouraged, but then he decided that he had to keep fighting for justice because “I do what I do because I am broken, too...We are all broken by something...Our brokenness is also the source of our common humanity, the basis of our shared search for comfort, meaning, and healing...We can embrace our humanness, which means embracing our broken natures and the compassion that remains our best hope for healing. Or we can deny our brokenness, forswear compassion, and, as a result, deny our own humanity.” • What does Stevenson mean when he says that we are all “broken”? • Where do we see examples of “brokenness” and its effects depicted in the book? • Do you agree with Stevenson that our humanity depends on recognizing and having compassion for brokenness? Why or why not?

Essay Option #3: At Walter McMillian’s funeral, Bryan Stevenson tells the congregation that “Mercy is most empowering, liberating, and transformative when it is directed at the undeserving. The people who haven’t earned it...are the most meaningful recipients of our compassion. Walter genuinely forgave the people who unfairly accused him and the people who judged him unworthy of mercy. And in the end it was just mercy towards others that allowed him to recover a life worth celebrating.” • Do you agree with the words Stevenson shared at the funeral? • Why do some of the people in the book who seem to have the most reason to be bitter end up focusing on feelings of gratitude or forgiveness? • Is it possible to pursue both justice for victims and mercy for the people who hurt them?

Summer Reading Assignment #2

One of the most important purposes of the AP Language and Composition class is identifying an author's central argument or claim and analyzing his effectiveness at communicating this argument. In today's society, many have begun to use various types of media to present their arguments. With this in mind, you are to find a documentary of a topic of your choosing to view and analyze. Please email me for approval of your documentary choice. You will also be researching various written articles that support or deny the claims made in the documentary.

STEP ONE: View the documentary. As you watch, rhetorically analyze it and TAKE NOTES individually on the following questions (these can be handwritten or typed):

- What is the filmmaker's purpose?
- What is the argument/thesis of the film? What assertions/claims are made?
- To what extent does the argument have validity? Are there fallacies?
- What is the attitude or viewpoint of the filmmaker? Tone?
- What cinematic techniques does the filmmaker use to make his/her point? (Think about the diction and syntax of the film, lighting, etc.).
- How does the structure of the film help achieve its purpose (interviews, personal stories, dramatizations, etc.)?

STEP TWO: Research on the topic presented in the documentary. Find a minimum of 3 articles that will support or deny the claims made in the documentary. Then write a persuasive essay based on both the documentary and research articles in which you convince your reader to either agree or disagree with the claims put forth in the documentary. Your persuasive essay should be a minimum of 3-pages typed and double spaced. Be sure to include a Works Cited page that shows your 3 articles.