

# LASALLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

WORLD HISTORY II (Sophomores)

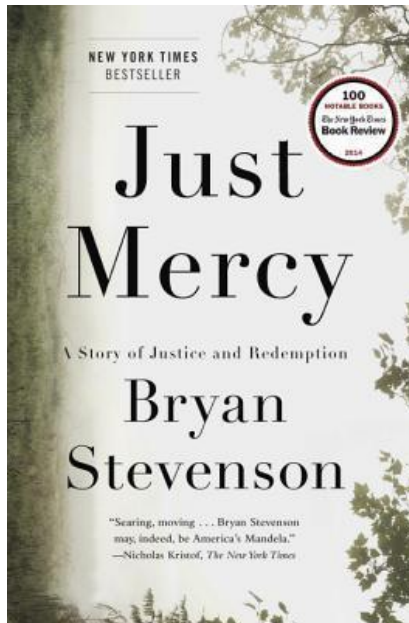
SUMMER READING 2018

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

BOOK: **JUST MERCY** by Bryan Stevenson  
ISBN: 13: 978-0812984965

Amazon Paperback: \$9.42

Kindle Available: \$14.95



All students enrolled in a class offered by the Social Studies department for the 2018-2019 school year will read **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson, over the summer. The following are the guidelines and expectations for those entering their sophomore year.

As has been our summer reading custom for students, books selected also provide a transition between the school years by introducing themes and ideas that will be explored in the new school year. By reading and completing their summer assignment the student's will develop the ability to discuss **Just Mercy** across classes as they are introduced to reading, critical thinking, and writing skills, from the same book. The hope is that the students will find the selected book informative and enjoyable and will want to continue to explore the world of books.

Before you begin writing consider/think about/reflect on the following:

- Stevenson writes that the United States has become an unprecedentedly harsh and punitive nation of mass imprisonment where the prison population has risen from 300,000 in the early 1970s to 2.3 million today. (There are more than a half-million people in state or federal prisons for drug offenses today, up from just 41,000 in 1980) One in every fifteen people born in the United States in 2001 is expected to go to jail or prison; one in every three black male babies born in this century is expected to be incarcerated.
- Consider the collateral consequences of mass incarceration – women with children banned from receiving food stamps and public housing. Prior convictions making thousands of people unemployable. Many people disenfranchised because of their criminal convictions.
- Spending on jails has ballooned from \$6.9 billion in 1980 to \$80 billion today.

## ASSIGNMENT:

**Your work will be due on our first day of class.** We recommend that you get started early enough to get as much out of your reading and writing as your able.

- Choose **five** chapters that you felt were the ***most important to Stevenson's purpose.***
- For each of the **five** chapter's chosen, complete the following:
  - In a **notebook** or within a digital document, write a minimum 8-10 sentence paragraph response to the chapter.
  - For each paragraph, include the following.
    - 1-2 sentence summary of the chapter.
    - 3 facts or stories (or some combination) presented in the chapter that you consider particularly interesting.
    - 2 personal reactions to those facts/stories that you have identified.
    - 1 remaining question of yours that the chapter did not answer.
    - An explanation of why the chapter should be considered one of the most important given the author's purpose for the book.
  - Ensure that the specifics from the chapter that you are responding to are clearly identified in your response.
    - Students should note the page number of those items (i.e., facts and/or stories) they are responding to in their response.
  - These reactions will not be shared publically unless chosen by the student, so be bold and honest in your response.
- To aid the comprehension of the book's themes and major points, it is recommended that students reference the book's **discussion guide** as they read. However, this discussion guide should not be substituted for reading the book. Any future assessment of a student's comprehension of the book will require students to answer different questions, and/or go beyond what is provided in this discussion guide. ***At a minimum***, students should be prepared to answer questions from this guide, with references to specific facts presented in that chapter by the first day of classes.

Your meeting of these expectations and comprehension of this book will be assessed in the first week of the 2018-2019 school year. During class discussions and assignments completed in class that week, you will be expected to demonstrate your comprehension of the book during class. These assignments will be graded, and your ability to contribute substantively to discussions about the themes and topics in this book will also be assessed.

Have a Great Summer,

Mr. Abrams, Mr. Donohoe, Mr. Fitzgerald, & Mr. Harbour