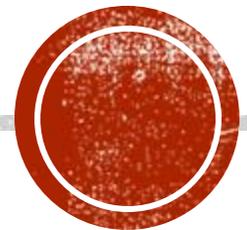


JUST MERCY: A TRUE STORY OF THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

By Bryan Stevenson



BRYAN STEVENSON

- Born November 14, 1959
- Graduated from Harvard Law School in 1985
- Founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) - a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama
- Works to exonerate innocent death row prisoners and help children prosecuted as adults
- Has won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row
- Won the landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger



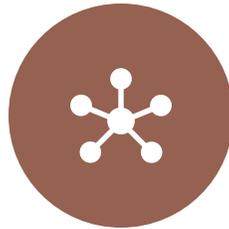
GROUND RULES:



ASK QUESTIONS



ENGAGE FULLY



**INTEGRATE
NEW
INFORMATION**



**OPEN YOUR
MIND TO
DIVERSE VIEWS**



**UTILIZE WHAT
YOU LEARN**



Attending Palos Verdes High School
means showing
COMPASSION, EMPATHY and **RESPECT**
to **ALL** Sea Kings





DIRECTIONS

Note

Take notes on this power point



Chart

Complete the chart



Submit

Submit to your English teacher
on your first day of class (8/29
or 8/30)



WRITE THE
DEFINITIONS OF
THE KEY TERMS
ON YOUR CHART:

Compassion: literally means “to suffer together.” It is the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.

Empathy: the ability to sense other people's emotions, coupled with the ability to imagine what someone else might be thinking or feeling.

Respect: due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others. Admiration as a result of abilities, qualities, or achievements.

Mercy: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

JIMMY DILL'S STORY

- The State of Alabama executed Jimmy Dill on April 16, 2009, despite serious concerns that he did not receive the adequate legal assistance.
- Because he was poor, Mr. Dill had only an appointed lawyer whose pay was limited to \$1000 and who did not investigate or present evidence in Mr. Dill's defense.
- Prior to trial, the State offered a plea agreement to a parole-eligible life sentence, which Mr. Dill would have accepted but for his lawyer's failure to explain it to him.
- Neither the jury nor any court heard the evidence that the shooting victim did not die until 9 months *after* the crime. They did hear evidence that his caretaker failed to provide him appropriate treatment, or about Mr. Dill's horrific experiences with sexual abuse and his lifelong struggles with drug and alcohol addiction.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1

Reflect on this quote and Jimmy's story.

2

Discuss how this quote an example of **compassion.**

3

Add your response to your chart.



AN EXAMPLE OF COMPASSION:

Byran Stevenson explains, "we are all broken by something. We have all hurt someone and have been hurt. We all share the condition of brokenness even if our brokenness is not equivalent. I desperately wanted mercy for Jimmy Dill and would have done anything to create justice for him, but I couldn't pretend that his struggle was disconnected from my own. The ways in which I have been hurt – and have hurt others – are different from the ways Jimmy Dill suffered and caused suffering. But our shared brokenness connected us...[it] is also the basis for our shared search for comfort, meaning, and healing" (239).



AVERY JENKINS' STORY

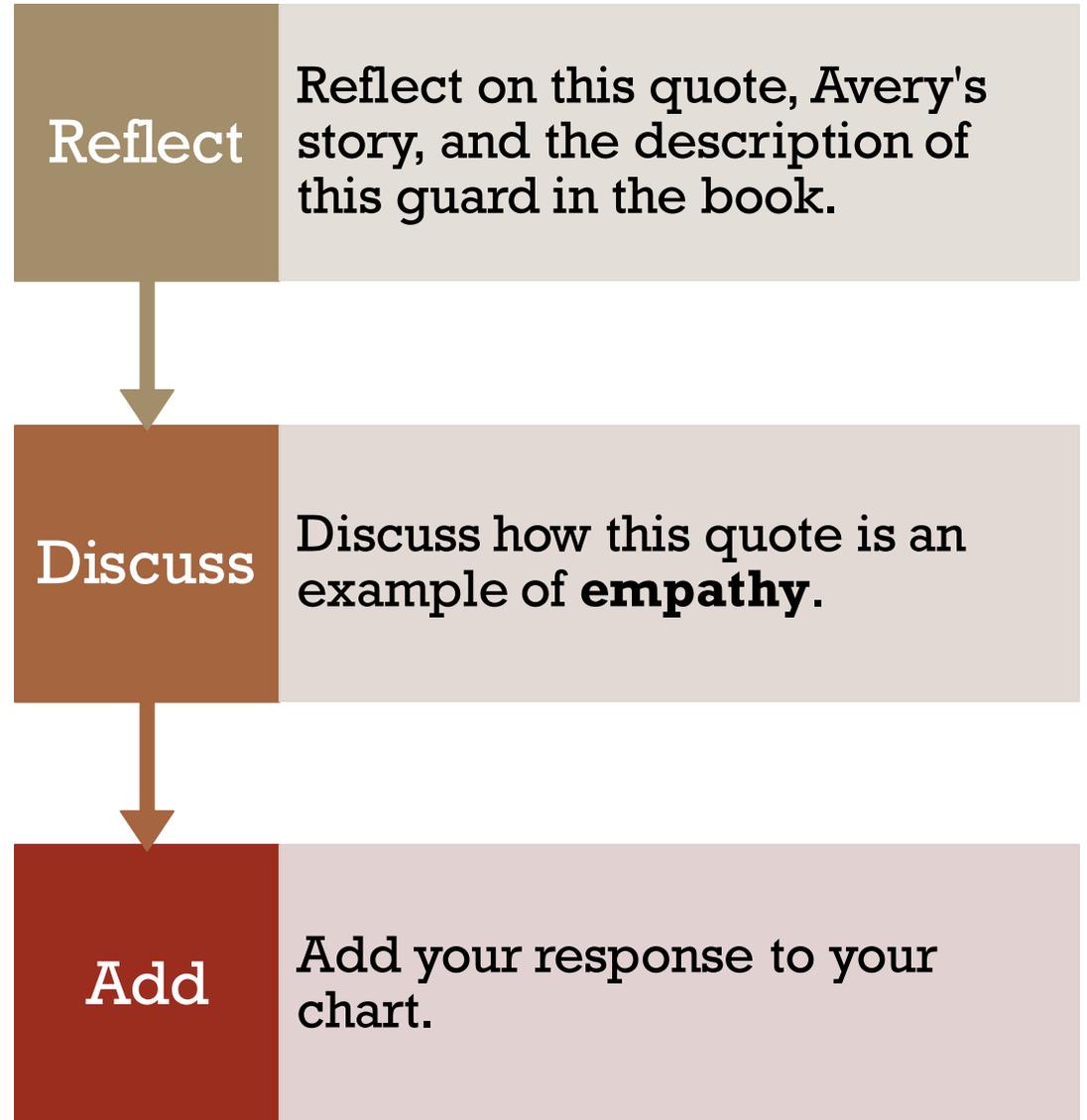
- Avery's father was murdered, and his mother died of a drug overdose
- He'd been in foster care since he was 2-years old and was in 19 different homes before he was 8-years old
- He was physically and sexually abused by many of his foster families
- He had cognitive impairments, organic brain damage and schizophrenia or other serious mental illnesses
- By 13-years old he was abusing drugs
- At 15 he was having seizures and experiencing psychotic episodes
- At 17 he was homeless
- He was in and out of jail until he turned 20



AVERY JENKINS CONTINUED

- He had a psychotic episode and wandered into a stranger's house. He thought he was being attacked by demons
- In the house, he brutally stabbed and killed the man who he thought was a demon
- His lawyers did no investigation of his history prior to the trial
- He was quickly convicted and sentenced to death
- Ultimately, he won a new trial and was placed in a facility that could receive mental health treatment





AN EXAMPLE OF EMPATHY:

"You know I took ole Avery to court for hearing and was down there with y'all for those three days. And I, uh, well, I want you to know that I was listening... You know, I – uh, well, I appreciate what you're doing, I really do. It was kind of difficult for me to be in that courtroom to hear what y'all was talking about. I came up in foster care, too... I didn't think anybody had it as bad as me. They moved me around like I wasn't wanted nowhere... But listening to what you was saying about Avery made me realize that there were other people who had it as bad as I did. I guess even worse" (175).



WALTER MCMILLIAN'S STORY

- He was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of a young white woman.
- He was held on death row prior to being convicted and sentenced to death.
- His trial lasted only a day and a half. Three witnesses testified against him.
- Multiple alibi witnesses, who were black, testified that he was at a church fish fry at the time of the crime and their testimony was ignored.
- His conviction was overturned by the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals in 1993 and prosecutors agreed the case had been mishandled.
- McMillian was released in 1993 after spending 6 years on death row for a crime he did not commit.



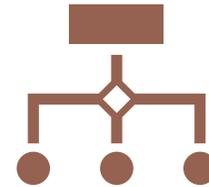
INSTRUCTIONS:



Reflect on this quote and Walter's story.



Discuss how this quote is an example of **respect**.



Add your response to your chart.



AN EXAMPLE OF RESPECT

When Walter was about to be released from prison, Tommy Chapman (Monroe County District Attorney) spoke with Byran Stevenson:

"I went upstairs to find Tommy Chapman waiting for me in the courtroom. 'After we're done, I'd like to shake his hand,' he told me. 'Would that be all right?' 'I think he'd appreciate that,' I said. 'This case has taught me things I didn't even know I had to learn,' Chapman said. 'We've all learned a lot, Tommy'" (194).



IAN MANUEL & DEBBIE BAIGRE'S STORY

In **1990**, when Ian Manuel was 13 years old, he was directed by older juveniles to commit a robbery. During the botched robbery attempt, Debbie Baigre suffered a nonfatal gunshot wound. Ian turned himself in to the police and was charged as an adult with armed robbery and attempted murder. Ian's attorney instructed him to plead guilty and told him he would receive a 15-year sentence. Ian accepted responsibility for his actions and pleaded guilty **BUT** was sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

Ian was sent to an adult prison. Because of his age and small stature, he was placed in solitary confinement. He spent 18 years in solitary confinement. He was alone and hidden away in a concrete box.

Debbie Baigre, his victim, advocated for his release. She wrote to prison officials that his treatment was inhumane. He was ultimately released in 2016.



AN EXAMPLE OF MERCY:

"[Debbie Baraigre] tried to talk to prison officials and gave interviews to the press to draw attention to Ian's plight. 'No one knows more than I do how destructive and reckless Ian's crime was. But what we are currently doing to him is mean and irresponsible.' She told one reporter. 'When this was committed, he was a child, a thirteen-year-old boy with a lot of problems and no supervision, and no help available. We are not children'" (130).



INSTRUCTIONS:

1

REFLECT ON THIS QUOTE
AND IAN'S STORY.

2

DISCUSS HOW THIS QUOTE
IS AN EXAMPLE
OF **MERCY**.

3

ADD YOUR RESPONSE TO
YOUR CHART.



4 WAYS TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND JUSTICE

Watch Bryan Stevenson's speech:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB4VQYaT4bA>
- (13:34 minute video)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vI7UPuCUrE&t=71s>
- (3:30 minute video)

Add his 4 ways to achieve peace and justice to your chart. Be sure to add his steps to the row with which it most closely aligns.

- **Hint:** Proximity leads to Compassion

