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Reflection Paper 2

'Just Mercy' is a book written by Bryan Stevenson and published in 2015. The Author is writing about his own story in this book. How he becomes a Lawyer and how he gets flooded by cases.

In the following, I will focus on a little sentence right at the beginning of chapter six. "He's just a little boy!" (p.115). After that sentence, Bryan Stevenson talks about the story of a young boy named Charlie. Charlie killed his mom's boyfriend after he has been abusive for a long time to his mom and him. In that certain night, he hit his mom so hard that she was unconscious. After his mom's boyfriend fell asleep, he shot him in the head. Eventually he called for an ambulance for his unconscious mom.

The quote itself takes place after the young boy got arrested and his grandma called Bryan because her grandson was looking for a life sentence. I read this quote over and over again and every time I can literally hear the desperation in this sentence. This one short sentence shows how cruel and ignorant the justice system was or partly still is. Especially black people had or still have to face harder verdicts than white people have to. Bryan is also telling two other stories where young kids got life sentences.

This quote points out that as a kid you can't be treated as an adult and you can't be put into an adult prison but that is exactly what happened. The court didn't care about the kid's story. Why they committed the crime. It didn't matter that they were abused and had horrible childhoods. None of this mattered.

I personally think it's crazy that these children were treated like adults and that it didn't matter how their childhood was so far. It's making me sad and also really mad that anybody could think it was a good idea to treat those kids in that way. Nobody could actually think this is a good idea especially because they knew that these would probably get abused in adult prisons.

All in all, I think it's really important and necessary that Bryan also tells the horrible stories. Normally no one wants to hear these stories but we have to open our eyes to what happened back then so we will never do the same mistake again.