

Hello Honors Juniors,

Welcome to 2024-2025 Honors English III! We have a great year lined up with an in-depth look at American classics and modern US literature. We will also focus on becoming better readers, writers, thinkers, and people.

That said, our course will be a great time to build a little community inside of our larger school. I require your best each day, and you can expect the same from me. I'm really excited to be back in the classroom discussing literature with you for a FULL year this time 😊. Hopefully, by the end of the year, you will have had a great time, read and analyzed great literature, grown as a writer, and prepared for senior year literature and beyond. More than that, I hope that you take the ideas and skills of our course and utilize them to serve the Lord in your chosen paths.

This document has the summer reading and assignments listed. You will be reading and taking notes as needed for *Just Mercy*. Prepare for a *Just Mercy* novel multiple choice test when you return. You will also be writing an essay in response to *Just Mercy*. All materials/assignments due on the first day of class.

Your checklist:

- Read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson and take notes
- Just Mercy* Essay
- Test on the first day of class

See page 2 for assignment details.

2024-2025: Honors English III
[Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson](#)

1. Read, annotate as needed, and prepare for a test during the first week back of class.
 - a. Use the regular (not YA/abridged version) of this book.
 - i. It is also available as an ebook, an audiobook, and free to borrow at the Library (note: the Libby app is a great, free option if you'd prefer the digital or audio).
 - b. The movie is great, but it's definitely not a substitute for the book! Just a heads up :)
 - c. The better your annotations/notes, then the better prepared you will be.
 - d. Prepare for a quiz/test during the first day of classes.
 - i. A loving reminder – we have access to the same internet that you do :). Keep that in mind if you're tempted to use summaries rather than read the actual book. Taking an honors class means you want to challenge your thinking...if you want the internet to do it for you, then your year's going to be a challenging one!
2. Essay -
 - a. In the epilogue, Stevenson writes, "The real question of capital punishment in this country is, do we deserve to kill?" What was your opinion about capital punishment prior to reading this book? Did reading Just Mercy change your opinion about whether or not the United States has the right to execute its citizens? What other questions did this book raise about capital punishment? How does the Bible support or not support capital punishment?
 - b. Form a carefully and thoughtfully crafted essay surrounding the concept of capital punishment and answering the questions, "Do we deserve to kill?"
 - c. Requirements:
 - i. MLA format
 - ii. Works cited page (at minimum you will have the novel and a Bible cited)
 1. Make sure to use ESV for your Bible references
 - iii. 750 - 1,000 words in length
 - iv. [Rubric](#)
 - d. You will SHARE your google doc with Mrs. Dixon and you will upload your paper to Canvas BEFORE class -- by 11:59pm the night before your first class period.
 - i. If you do not share your google doc with Mrs. Dixon, you will not receive credit for the paper.