

## Sella--Summer Reading Assignment--English I Honors

*Just Mercy*--by Bryan Stevenson

*To Kill a Mockingbird*--Harper Lee

Questions? [Jsella@loyolaprep.org](mailto:Jsella@loyolaprep.org)

In addition to reading your two summer reading books, you will also complete two assignments that go along with the novel. For the novel, *Just Mercy*, you will be creating a soundtrack and in connection with *To Kill a Mockingbird* as well as *Just Mercy*, you will write a five paragraph compare/contrast essay (instructions attached). Both assignments will need to be typed in Google Docs in order to be turned in on turnitin.com during the first week of school.

**Soundtrack for *Just Mercy***--While reading, think carefully about the characters and themes present in the book. You will be considering these as you select at least 10 songs for a soundtrack for the text. No two songs can be from the same artist, and you should strive to have songs from a variety of genres.

**Your soundtrack will include at least one song that relates to:**

1. THREE important events from the book
2. THREE different characters
3. ONE song that you feel defines the "Equal Justice Initiative" in the novel
4. ONE song that defines Walter and Bryan's (the author) relationship
5. ONE theme (theme must be more than just one word--a phrase)
6. ONE of your choice  
(symbol, conflict, resolution, quote, additional event, , novel title, additional theme or character)

**For each song selection:**

1. Title line should include the song title, artist and element (character name, event, etc)
2. Explanation: Beneath the title line, describe the character, event, theme, etc. and how it relates to the song. Why did you choose this song for this element of the novel? Explain how the song/lyrics connect to, reveal or enhance your description of the character, event or theme. Back your claim with evidence from the book (quote, passage, event). If there are certain lyrics that led you to associate the song to the element then be sure to note those specific lyrics.

## Summer Reading Compare/Contrast (Sella—Honors)

**Assignment:** In a five paragraph essay, compare and/or contrast a character OR themes from the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee to a character OR themes from the novel *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

### Important Notes:

It is not enough to just list what is the same and what is different. Be sure to explain why it is important to see what is the same and what is different.

In your essay you should be able to answer questions like:  
How does the comparison help the reader's understanding?  
Why are these similarities important?  
What is the cause of the differences and why does that matter?  
What unique and new insight comes from the contrast?

For the similarities and/or differences you come up with, ask yourself, "So what?" The answer is the analysis/commentary your essay needs.

### Formatting:

Your Name

Coach Sella

English 1

12 August 2019

This is Where the Title Goes

All of this is done in twelve point, Times New Roman font. The entire paper should be double spaced. Make sure the date is in the order of day, then month, followed by the year.

Finally, make sure you put your last name and the page number in the top right corner. Do not use pronouns such as; I, me, we, us or you in the essay.