

# *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson: Companion Books for Children and Teens from the CCBC

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This bibliography has been developed as a companion to *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, the UW-Madison "Go Big Read" selection for 2015-2016. While the main focus of *Just Mercy* is about incarceration and the criminal justice system, Stevenson focuses on more than that in his work, including Black history, race and poverty, and social justice. (Race and Poverty are talked about more specifically through Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative; read more here: <http://www.eji.org/raceandpoverty>)

This list includes picture books, fiction and non-fiction about the criminal justice system and other topics Stevenson addresses in his work. Books about the justice system, trials, and children/young adults in the system are more easily accessible for starting a conversation with young adults about this topic. For younger children the topics that Stevenson addresses can still be talked about, but from a slightly different point of view.

## **Criminal Justice System**

### *Picture Book:*

- Beaty, Daniel. [Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me](#). Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Little, Brown, 2013. 40 pages. Ages 4-9

### *Fiction:*

- Gilbert, Kelly Loy. [Conviction](#). Disney-Hyperion, 2015. 352 pages. Age 12 and older
- Goodman, Shawn. [Kindness for Weakness](#). Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2013. 272 pages. Age 13 and older
- Magoon, Kekla. [How It Went Down](#). Henry Holt, 2014. 326 pages. Age 14 and older
- Marsden, John. [Letters From the Inside](#). Houghton Mifflin, 1994. 146 pages. Age 13 and older
- Myers, Walter Dean. [Lockdown](#). Amistad / HarperCollins, 2010. 247 pages. Age 12 and older
- Myers, Walter Dean. [Monster](#). Illustrated by Christopher Myers. HarperCollins, 1999. 281 pages. Age 13 and older
- Perera, Anna. [Guantanamo Boy](#). Albert Whitman & Co., 2009. 340 pages. Age 13 and older
- Rapp, Adam. [The Buffalo Tree](#). Front Street, 1997. 188 pages. Age 15 and older

### *Non-Fiction:*

- Atkin, S. Beth. [Voices from the Streets: Young Former Gang Members Tell Their Stories](#). Little, Brown, 1996. Pages 132. Ages 9-14
- Faryon, Cynthia J. [Real Justice, Sentenced to Life at Seventeen: The Story of David Milgaard](#). Lorimer, 2012. 115 pages. Age 12 and older
- Gantos, Jack. [Hole in My Life](#). Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. 200 pages. Age 13 and older
- Kuklin, Susan. [No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row](#). Henry Holt, 2008. 212 pages. Age 14 and older

- School Library Journal. *In the Margins Announces First Social Justice/Advocacy Book Award*: <http://www.slj.com/2015/02/industry-news/in-the-margins-announces-first-social-justiceadvocacy-book-award/>

## Black History

### *Non-Fiction:*

- Crowe, Chris. [Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case](#). Phylis Fogelman Books / Penguin, 2003. 128 pages. Age 12 and older
- Nelson, Marilyn. [A Wreath for Emmett Till](#). Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 40 pages. Age 14 and older
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. [Birmingham, 1963](#). Wordsong / Boyds Mills Press, 2007. 39 pages. Age 10 and older

## Social Justice

### *Picture Books:*

- Birtha, Becky. [Grandmama's Pride](#). Illustrated by Colin Bootman. Albert Whitman, 2005. 32 pages. Ages 6-9
- Wiles, Deborah. [Freedom Summer](#). Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue. Atheneum Books, 2001. 32 pages. Ages 4-8

### *Non-Fiction:*

- Hughes, Langston. [My People](#). Photographed by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Ginny Seo Books / Atheneum, 2009. 32 pages. Age 3 and older
- Thomas, Shelley Moore. [Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace](#). Photographed by Eric Futran. Albert Whitman, 1998. 24 pages. Ages 3-7

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