



## *Nevada County Reads & Writes*

2016 Selection:

# **Just Mercy**

by Bryan Stevenson

### ~ GUIDELINES FOR NEVADA COUNTY WRITES~ **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WRITING COMPETITION**

Nevada County Reads & Writes is a county-wide program for the entire community. Sponsored by Nevada County Libraries and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, it is an annual event wherein the community, including age-appropriate grades, is encouraged to read the same book simultaneously and then participate in subject related school and community events. This year the selection is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.

In its sixth year, Nevada County Writes is a writing competition for high school students. There is an awards and public readings event of the winning papers in which all participating students are recognized.

*Allow the creative writer in you to be expressed.*

*Get your creative juices going and participate in this inspiring program!*

Guidelines for students will be available January 25, 2016 at all high school sites - either from teachers or at the library and on the following websites: <http://nevco.org/nevada-county-reads-writes-2016/>, [www.nevadacountyreads.com](http://www.nevadacountyreads.com), <http://nevadaunion.njuhsd.com/Departments/Library/index.html> and <http://bearriver.njuhsd.com/Departments/Library/index.html>. The deadline date for Nevada County Writes student submissions will be midnight on Thursday, March 31, 2016. Awards are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> PLACE: \$200  
2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE: \$100  
3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE: \$75

## COMPETITION LOGISTICS:

- a. This writing competition is for high school students who have read the 2016 Nevada County Reads selection, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.
- b. Writing must be *your* original work of fiction, not to exceed 2000 words, and be read out-loud comfortably in approximately 15 minutes.
- c. Writing must be word processed.
- d. Writing must be double spaced, on 8.5" x 11" paper, with 1 inch margins. Use either Arial 12 point font or Times New Roman 14 point font.
- e. Include a cover sheet that, when you submit electronically, is a SEPARATE document from your short story even though you are submitting at the same time, in the same email. **COVER SHEET MUST BE A SEPARATE DOCUMENT FROM YOUR SHORT STORY** and include the following in this order:
  - Name
  - Student I.D. number (unless your school does not have ID numbers)
  - School of attendance
  - English teacher or school librarian (one mentor or support person if you have someone you would like to list here)
  - E-mail address
  - Telephone number
- f. Cover sheet and writing must be submitted electronically as a PDF e-mail attachment [to: nevadacountyreads@nevco.org](mailto:nevadacountyreads@nevco.org)
- g. Submit no later than Thursday at midnight 3/31/16. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## WRITING PROMPT:

Write a fiction story that emphasizes at least one of the following three issues that were highlighted in *Just Mercy*.

- Stop the Death Penalty in the United States.
- Do something about prison conditions and excessive punishment.
- Confront abuse of power by police and prosecutors.

## TIMELINE:

1/25/16	Student packet on-line and distributed to teachers/students/libraries
3/31/16	Writing submitted via e-mail by midnight <a href="mailto:nevadacountyreads@nevco.org">to nevadacountyreads@nevco.org</a>
4/7/16	Judging
4/13/16	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> place recipients announced at award ceremony to take place in the Off Center Stage at the Center for the Arts, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The program will highlight an awards presentation and the reading of winning stories. Additionally winners may be requested to do on-air readings on either KNCO or KVMR radio stations - week of 4/11 or 4/18.