*Just Mercy* Reflection Questions

**Questions to write on Word or Google Doc:**

**Chapter 4**

1. Describe the 1982 Supreme Court ruling related to death penalty appeals. What impact did that have across the country?

2. Define the 2002 Supreme Court case of Atkins v. Virginia.

3. Alabama’s capital statute requires that murder be intentional in order for a defendant to be eligible for the death penalty. Why is this relevant in Richardson’s case?

4. Richardson was a U.S. war veteran who suffered tremendous mental trauma while serving our nation. How should that be factored into his defense?

**Chapter 5**

1. What is the origin of this chapter’s name?

2. How is the relationship between Stevenson and Walter changing? What does the author cite as an important activity for lawyers to do when defending death row prisoners? Why?

3. Why does it annoy Stevenson that To Kill a Mockingbird is a point of pride in Monroeville?

**Chapter 6**

1. In what ways has the judicial system failed to protect Charlie?

2. What special circumstances of the murder victim lead to greater struggles for Charlie? Does this seem fair?

3. How does Stevenson finally convince Charlie to speak with him?

4. What is your opinion of Mr. and Mrs. Jennings?