**Book Study Sample Answers from Mrs. Macdonald’s Books: April 20th**

A - Non-fiction (True story) ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson:

1. Who is the ***protagonist*** of the story/text which you are reading? How do you know this?

The protagonist of this book is the author, Bryan Stevenson, as he tells his story about defending people (especially people of colour) on death row in the deep south of the US. I know he is the protagonist because he starts out telling his own story right from the beginning, where he was born, went to school, and how his story evolved from there as he tried to help others.

1. What do you believe is the ***protagonist’s*** goal? In addition, what do you believe was his or her motivation in having this goal?

Bryan Stevenson’s goal was to right some of the wrongs that had happened to African-Americans in the justice system. His motivation came from a belief that everyone, no matter their background, should have equal chances for fair treatment. Evidence of this is shown in the introduction: “My short time on death row revealed that there was something in the way we treat people in our judicial system, that maybe we judge some people unfairly. The more I reflected on the experience, the more I recognized that I had been struggling my whole life with the question of how and why people are judged unfairly.” (p.13)

1. From what ***point of view*** is the story told? Include a piece of evidence that allows you to figure this out.

This story is told from the First-person point of view. I can tell that from the very first line: “I wasn’t prepared to meet a condemned man.” The use of the pronoun “I” shows that he is telling the story from his point of view.

1. Why would the author have chosen this ***point of view***? Why is it the best choice for the story?

This was a great choice, as the author has an important story to tell, and it is very effective to hear his story from his head. He lived it, he felt it, he experienced it; therefore, both the frustrations and the triumphs are much stronger coming straight from him, rather than a 3rd person narrator.