



## About the Author

Nic Stone was born and raised in a suburb of Atlanta, GA, and the only thing she loves more than an adventure is a good story about one.

After graduating from Spelman College, she worked extensively in teen mentoring and lived in Israel for a few years before returning to the US to write full-time. Growing up with a wide range of cultures, religions, and backgrounds, Stone strives to bring these diverse voices and stories to her work.

You can find her goofing off and/or fangirling over her adorable little family on most social media platforms.

 @nicstone  
 @getnicced

Also the author of  
*Odd One Out*,  
available Oct. 9!



**"...stands apart in a literature that too often finds it hard to look hard truths in the face. Take interest and ask questions."**

— Kirkus Reviews

## About Project LIT

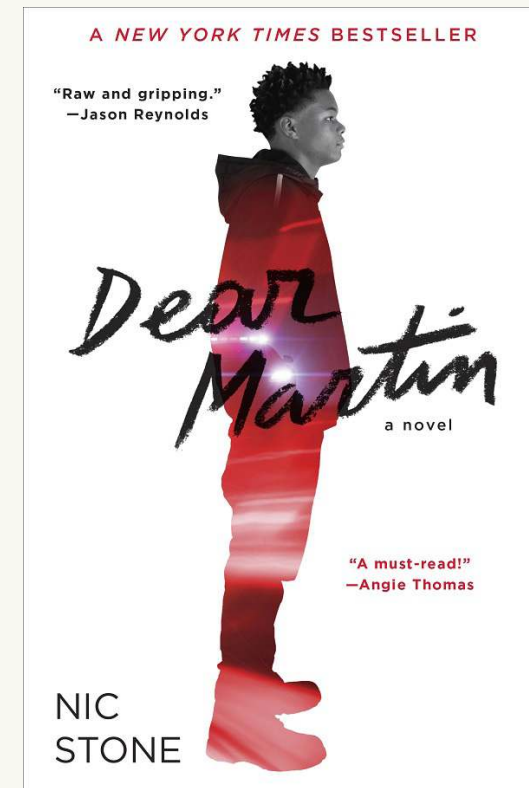
Project LIT began in Nashville, championed by English teacher Jarred Amato, who recognized a need for better access to books for students in middle-high school. The original goal, to set up little libraries to provide free reading material, has expanded, and Project LIT has grown to encompass book clubs across the country who are reading and discussing books together to foster a lifelong love of reading. Keep up with the Project LIT Community on Twitter @ProjectLITComm.

This program is made possible through the generosity of Graves Gilbert Clinic, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the Young Adult Library Services Association, the Friends of WKU Libraries, and the SOKY Book Fest partnership (Barnes & Noble Booksellers, the Warren County Public Library, and WKU Libraries).

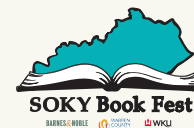


## Project LIT 2018 Program Guide

-featuring-



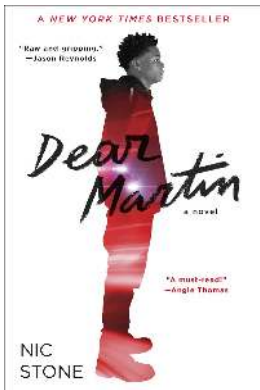
In partnership with:



Read the book. Join the conversation.

• Visit [2018.yasbookcon.org](http://2018.yasbookcon.org) for more information •

# About the Book



Justyce McAllister is top of his class, captain of the debate team, and set for the Ivy League next year—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. He is eventually released without charges (or an apology), but the incident has Justyce spooked. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood, he can't seem to escape the scorn of his former peers or the attitude of his prep school classmates. The only exception: Sarah Jane, Justyce's gorgeous—and white—debate partner he wishes he didn't have a thing for.

Struggling to cope with it all, Justyce starts a journal to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But do Dr. King's teachings hold up in the modern world? Justyce isn't so sure.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up. Way up. Much to the fury of the white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. And Justyce and Manny get caught in the crosshairs. In that media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack. The truth of what happened that night—some would kill to know. Justyce is dying to forget.

1. The opening scene shows Justyce trying to get his ex-girlfriend, Melo, home safely. She is biracial and, as readers find out, she is perceived as white based on her complexion. Justyce is confronted and attacked by Officer Castillo. Do you think that he would have attacked Justyce if he thought that Melo was not white? Why or why not?

2. Dr. "Doc" Dray, Justyce and Manny's debate teacher, puts the words "all men are created equal" on the board (p.21). Discuss the meaning of these words within their historical context and now. How and why has their meaning changed?

3. In one letter to Martin, Justyce recalls a conversation he had with his mother. She asks, "You ever consider that maybe you are not supposed to 'fit'? People who make history rarely do" (p. 36). Discuss this statement. What other realizations does Justyce have as he processes his mother's words?

4. Respond to Quan's question: "Why try to do right if people will always look at me and assume wrong?" (p. 144) Why did Quan ask this? How does Justyce respond? What would Martin say?

5. What happens at graduation? Why did the officers question Justyce? What revelations were made to Justyce's mother? How does she feel? In your opinion, is her reasoning for not approving of his relationship with SJ justified? Explain your thinking (pp. 175-183).

6. Read Langston Hughes's poem "I, Too." What similarities do you see between the poem and *Dear Martin*? Write a reflection on how these texts work together.

7. Who was an ally in *Dear Martin*? Who was not? Explain the importance of solidarity in the face of all forms of bigotry.

Find these questions, along with the full discussion guide from Penguin Random House, at [https://images.randomhouse.com/promo\\_image/9781101939499\\_4983.pdf](https://images.randomhouse.com/promo_image/9781101939499_4983.pdf).

Book Giveaways

FREE copies of *Dear Martin* will be distributed at these community events while supplies last:

*Schedule subject to change. See [2018.yasbookcon.org](http://2018.yasbookcon.org) for updates.*

**Thursday, September 13 at 1pm**

Warren County Public Library (WCPL) Bob Kirby Branch, 175 Iron Skillet Ct

**Friday, September 14 at 9am**

Warren County Public Library Main Branch, 1225 State St

**Saturday, September 22 from 9am-1pm**

SoKY Marketplace Pavilion, 636 Center St (corner of 7th & Center, behind SKyPAC)

## Book Discussions

**Wednesday, September 26 at 6pm**

Represent(ed) Panel Discussion\*

• Beulah Winchel Education Library (formerly ERC), Gary Ransdell Hall, Normal St.

**Thursday, October 11 at 6pm**

Represent(ed) Panel Discussion

• WCPL Main Branch, 1225 State St

**Monday, October 15 at 6pm**

Represent(ed) Panel discussion

• Spencer's Coffee, 915 College St

\*See panel info on [2018.yasbookcon.org](http://2018.yasbookcon.org).

## Author Events

**Friday, October 19 at 10am\*\***

Author Nic Stone Keynote & Book Signing @ YAS Book Con  
Downing Student Union Auditorium • 1906 College Hgts. Blvd

\*\*Stone will sign books & participate in panel discussions until 2pm. YAS Book Con is a free book festival for readers of young adult literature.

All events are free & open to the public (ages 12+ recommended).

## Want books for your students?

We have a limited number of classroom sets available for middle-high school English classes, libraries, or homeschool groups. Send an email to Sara Volpi at [sara.volpi@wku.edu](mailto:sara.volpi@wku.edu) to inquire about availability.

For Students