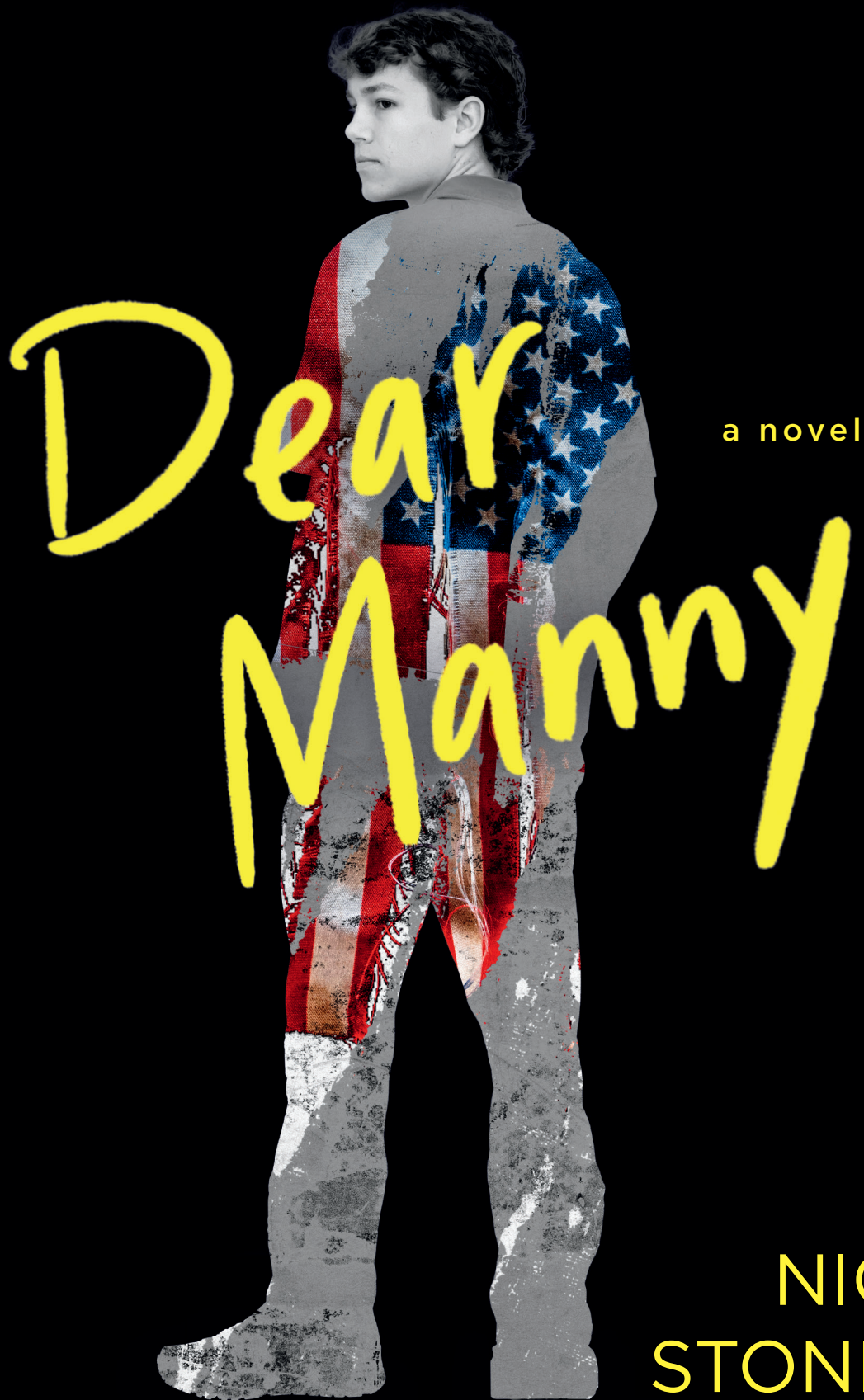


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF **DEAR MARTIN**

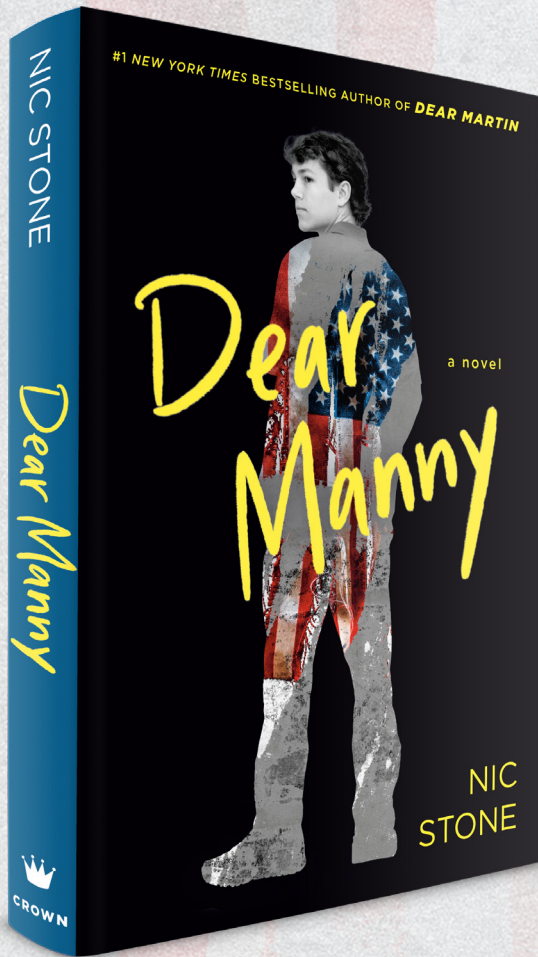


Photograph of boy © 2025 by Nigel Livingstone

DISCUSSION GUIDE

RHTeachersLibrarians.com





Themes: Fairness, Justice & Equality, Racism & Prejudice, Government & Politics, Contemporary Issues/Social Problems, Morals & Values in Conflict

ABOUT THE BOOK

Jared Peter Christensen is running for president (of the Junior Class Council at his university, but still). His platform is solid—built on increased equity and inclusion in all sectors of campus life—and he’s got a good chance of beating the deeply conservative business major he’s running against.

But then a transfer student enters the race and calls Jared out for his big-talk/little-action way of operating. So what’s the right way to bring about change? As the campaign heats up, feelings are caught, and juicy secrets come to light, and Jared writes letters to his deceased friend Manny, hoping to make sense of his confusion. What’s a white boy to do when love and politics collide?

New York Times bestselling author Nic Stone writes from a new perspective in this exciting final chapter of the *Dear Martin* series that examines privilege, love, and our political climate.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo credit: Nigel Livingstone

Nic Stone is the author of many novels, including the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Dear Martin* and its *New York Times* bestselling sequel *Dear Justyce*. She also penned the young adult titles *Odd One Out*, an NPR Best Book and an ALA Rainbow Book Top Ten selection; *Jackpot*, the YALSA Quick Pick selection that takes a searing look at economic inequality; and

Chaos Theory, a Southern Book Prize finalist and a YALSA Best Fiction Book for Young Adults Reading List selection. Her middle-grade novels include *Clean Getaway*, a *New York Times* bestseller, and *Fast Pitch*, a YALSA Quick Pick Selection. Nic lives in Atlanta and will continue to write books that ruffle feathers.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- In Nic Stone's opening letter to the reader she writes, "Being a person in a multicultural world where you have to be in a relationship with lots of people, many of whom look, think, feel, and believe differently than you do, is the hardest thing of all."
 - Explain this statement in your own words.
 - Do you agree with Nic Stone? Is being a person in a multicultural world hard? Why or why not?
 - Describe a situation where you had to interact with someone who you disagreed with. What was this experience like?
 - What are the benefits of being around people who look, think, feel, and believe differently than you?
 - In recent years, admission to Ivy League schools has been a controversial topic. Explore these videos to learn more about different college admissions topics:
 - [Affirmative Action v. Race Neutral Admissions](#)
 - [Colleges Post-Affirmative Action](#)
 - [Malcolm Gladwell on Sports-Based Admissions](#)
 - [Legacy Admissions](#)
 - [Wealthy Family/Donor Admissions](#)
- Opening Discussion Questions:
 - Think about a topic your opinion has changed on as you have gotten older. What is the topic? How has it changed? Why?
 - Think about the person you were five years ago and the person you are today. How have you changed over the past five years? Do you think these changes have been mainly positive or mainly negative? Why?
 - Think about a person your opinion has evolved over the past few years. Who is the person? How has your opinion of this person changed?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1: We the People

- Why does Jared want to run for junior class president? How could this position impact how Jared sees himself and his role at Yale?
- John Preston LePlante IV created a group known as the Vineyard Traditionalists. Why do you think he created this group? What does the creation of this group tell you about John Preston's perspective?

CHAPTER 2: Self Evident Truths

- Why is the situation involving Darius Danielson so impactful on how Jared views the world around him?

Letter to Manny: March 28

- Jared is struggling with whether he should run for junior class president. Why is Jared struggling with this? Do you think Jared should run? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 3: Divided We Fall

- A third person has entered the running for junior class president. Does this change whether you think Jared should run? Why or why not?
- Dr. Yeh's class discusses the U.S. Constitution. How is the Constitution a living document?

CHAPTER 4: A More Perfect Union

- What do you think Jared means when he says, "The overt and unabashed support from dudes who look like him feels good." Why is this moment important in understanding Jared's worldview?
- Describe the first meeting between Jared and Dylan. What happened? How does Jared come across to Dylan during this first meeting? How do you think their relationship will change or develop over the course of the text?

CHAPTER 5: United We Stand

- John Preston, Ari, and Dylan debate the concept of DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion). What are the various sides of the debate? What does this debate show us about how Dylan and John Preston view the world? For additional information on DEI programs, explore the following videos:
 - [Why Diversity Initiatives at Colleges and Companies Are Facing Political Backlash](#)
 - [Unpacking the Attack on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Texas](#)
 - [How Diversity Became a Dirty Word in Corporate America](#)

CHAPTER 6: Blessings of Liberty

- Jared and Dylan discuss their thoughts on various political topics. What important information do you learn about Jared and Dylan in this conversation? Do you agree or disagree with Jared and Dylan on each of the topics they explore?
- Jared decides to share that he benefited from unfair treatment. Why do you think he decided to share this with Dylan? Do you think it was a good choice to share it with her?

Letter to Manny: April 10

- Describe the interaction between Jared, Dylan, and Ainsely. What does this interaction tell us about how Jared has evolved?
- Jared gets sent an article about Dylan. What is the importance of the article? What would you do if you were in Jared's situation and received this information?

CHAPTER 7: Establish Justice

- Dr. Yeh's class debates the act of banning books. What are the various arguments people make about banning books? Whose argument resonates most with you? Do you believe banning books is a violation of constitutional rights? For additional information about banning books, explore the following videos:
 - [The Fight Over Banning Books](#)
 - [Nationwide Effort to Ban Books Challenges Freedom of Speech](#)
 - [Book Bans in America are Rising. Here's a Look at What's Lost](#)

CHAPTER 8: Ground of Public Confidence

- Jared is attacked by a group called Students Against Class Council Candidates That Drive Drunk. How does Jared respond to these attacks? How does Dylan react? What would you do if you were in Jared's situation?

CHAPTER 9: Beneficent Ends

- The Undergraduate College Council puts out a statement defending Jared. How do reality and the statement made by the UCC differ? Do you think Jared is right for not saying anything?
- Jared becomes involved in a situation between Dylan, Morgan, and the police. Why do you think Dylan decided to call Jared for help? What does this tell us about Jared and his relationship with Dylan? Do you think Morgan should be punished? For additional information about a Black Yale student having the police called on them as part of a white student racially profiling them, explore this [article](#).

Letter to Manny: April 13

- Jared ends his letter by writing, "She really might be the better candidate for JCC president . . . even knowing that, I still want to win." What does this quote tell you about Jared and how he views his role in society? Who do you believe is a better candidate for JCC president? Why?

CHAPTER 10: Redress of Grievances

- How does learning about Jared's family help us better understand Jared's outlook and his evolution as a character?
- Why do you think Jared decided to follow his father instead of Dylan? What does this tell us about Jared and his growth?

CHAPTER 11: Assistance of Counsel

- Why does Jared decide to continue to run for JCC president? Do you think he should still run?
- Justyce and SJ know the truth about Jared. Do you think SJ and Justyce should be trying to help Jared win the JCC presidency? Why or why not?

Letter to Manny: April 16

- Jared interacts with Dylan and a group of other students. What is this interaction like? What does this tell us about the state of Jared and Dylan's relationship? Do you think they are going to mend things? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 12: Speedy and Public Trial

- Jared, John Preston, and Dylan engage in a debate. Who do you think won the debate? Who do you think lost? Were you surprised by anything anyone said?

CHAPTER 13: Upon Probable Cause

- Jared decides to talk with Marquis. What do we learn from Marquis? Do you believe Marquis; why or why not? Do you think it was a good choice for Jared to talk to Marquis; why or why not? Should Jared change his interactions with Dylan after the conversation with Marquis?

CHAPTER 14: Election of Representatives

- Jared emailed the UCC about Dylan. Do you think he was right or wrong for notifying them about Dylan's past? What would you have done if you were in Jared's shoes?
- Jared makes a series of poor choices leading up to the election. Why do you think Jared made these choices? How do they alter your opinion of him? What do these choices show us about his evolution?

Letter to Manny: April 19

- Jared says he is "relieved" Dylan got kicked out of the presidential race. Why was he relieved? What does this moment show us about Jared? How does this moment change (or not change) your opinion of Jared?
- At the end of his letter, Jared confesses four things he can now see "clearly." What do these confessions tell us about how Jared views himself in society? Why do you think Jared felt a need to write these confessions? Why do you think Jared stated he would never want to actually share these confessions?

CHAPTER 15: Witness Against Himself

- Why do you think Avis is not going to tell Dylan about what Jared did? Do you think Avis should tell Dylan? Do you think Jared should tell Dylan the truth?
- Jared has a conversation with Avis. What do we learn about the situation between Dylan and Marquis? How does this information change (or not change) your opinion of Dylan? How does this information change (or not change) your opinion of Jared?

CHAPTER 16: Abuses and Usurpations

- Jared gets into a debate with Hunter. What does this interaction tell us about Jared and his outlook?
- When he sees Hunter, Jared says "He's really seeing himself." Why does Jared say this? What does this moment tell us about how Jared continues to evolve and alter his worldview?

CHAPTER 17: Governments Long Established

- John Preston wins the presidency. Were you surprised at this election result? Why or why not? Do you think Dylan still being in the presidential race would have changed things? What does John Preston's victory tell you about the students at Yale?
- What does Ainsley mean when she says "she cannot believe the majority of our class voted against the best interests of themselves and posterity"?
- Jared ends the chapter by saying, he is "determined to like who he sees" in reference to looking at his reflection in a mirror. What changes do you think Jared needs to make in his life in order to "like who he sees"? If you were Jared's friend, what advice might you give him?

Letter to Jared: April 27

- Dylan decides to try and continue a relationship/friendship with Jared. Do you think Dylan should continue a relationship/friendship with Jared? What would you do if you were Dylan?
- Jared writes a letter, reflecting on how he views himself. Do you agree or disagree with Jared's assessment of himself? If you wrote a letter to yourself, what would you say?

Three Weeks Later

- John Preston is not allowed to become the JCC president, so Jared does. Were you surprised by this sudden change? How would you feel if you were Jared?
- How did you feel about the ending of the book? Do you think Jared should have a chance to be JCC president?
- What is the first thing Jared should do now that he is the JCC president?

POST-READING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

A Letter to Yourself

- At the end of the text, Jared writes a letter to himself (an idea he got from Dylan). Write a letter to yourself reflecting on who you are as a person, choices you have made that you now regret, and how you want to grow and evolve as you get older.

Dear Manny's Essential Question

- Explore the essential question: How does Jared's understanding of himself and his role in society shape and evolve over the course of the text? Use one of the below mediums to explore this question:
 - Visual Representation: Create a series of drawings focused on Jared's evolution.
 - Presentation: Create a slide deck which looks at fifteen key moments that show how Jared evolved over the course of the text.
 - Poem/Rap/Song: Create a short poem, rap, or song that explores Jared's growth over the course of the text.
 - Musical Playlist: Create a musical playlist of fifteen songs that showcase Jared's development throughout the story.
 - Textual Evidence Analysis: Identify fifteen key lines that showcase Jared's transformation and explain each line in your own words.
 - Analytical Essay: Write a five paragraph essay responding to the essential question about Jared's evolution.
 - Narrative Writing Task #1: Create an alternate ending to the text.
 - Narrative Writing Task #2: Choose a specific moment in the text and write it from another character's perspective.

Informational Text Exploration:

- Read "The Mysterious Case of the Harvard Women's Rugby Team," chapter 5 in Malcolm Gladwell's *The Revenge of the Tipping Point*. What connections can you make with the experience of students in *Dear Manny*?
- Read *How to Be a (Young) Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi and discuss the following questions:
 - How was Jared displaying anti-racist behaviors throughout *Dear Manny*?
 - How was Jared displaying racist behaviors throughout *Dear Manny*?
 - Do you believe Jared displayed more racist or anti-racist behaviors over the course of the story?
 - Which character from *Dear Manny* do you believe displayed the most racist behaviors throughout the book?
 - What character from *Dear Manny* do you believe displayed the most anti-racist behaviors throughout the book?

Literary Text Exploration:

- Explore the texts *Dear Martin* and *Dear Justyce*, paying particular attention to Jared and his development as a character. Discuss the following questions:
 - How has Jared's way of thinking or behavior changed or evolved from the start of *Dear Martin* to the conclusion of *Dear Manny*?
 - How has your opinion of Jared changed or evolved over the course of the texts? What led to your opinion changing? If your opinion didn't change, why not?
 - How has Justyce's way of thinking or behavior changed or evolved from the start of *Dear Martin* to the conclusion of *Dear Manny*?



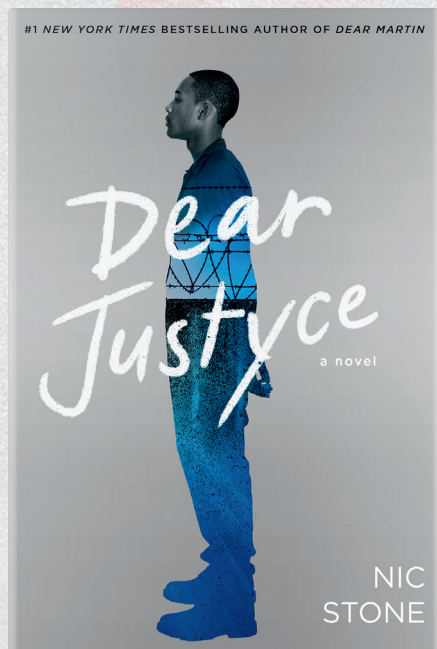
PRaise for **DEAR MARTIN**

A #1 *New York Times* bestseller
 An Indies Introduce Selection
 A Kids' Indie Next List Pick
 A William C. Morris Award Finalist

"Raw and gripping." —Jason Reynolds, *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of *All American Boys*

"A must-read!" —Angie Thomas, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Hate U Give*

★ "Teens, librarians, and teachers alike will find this book a godsend. . . . Vivid and powerful."
 —*Booklist*, starred review



PRaise for **DEAR JUSTYCE**

A *New York Times* Bestseller
 A *Kirkus* Best Book of the Year!
 An Amazon Best Book of the Month
 An NPR Concierge Pick

★ "A powerful, raw, must-read told through the lens of a Black boy ensnared by our broken criminal justice system." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Stone tackles the American juvenile justice system and its unjust persecution of Black boys in this gritty, powerful sequel to *Dear Martin*."
 —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "An unforgettable tour de force of social-justice and activist literature." —*Booklist*, starred review

Wyatt Oroke is a nationally recognized educator for his work around social justice and literacy. He was named the 2020 Baltimore City Teacher of the Year and the 2020 Maryland Teacher of the Year. Oroke currently teaches seventh and eighth grade English and honors English at City Springs Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore.



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