

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *DEAR MARTIN*

# NIC STONE

"A book that deserves to  
be eaten by young people!"

—CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS,  
author of Newbery Medal  
winner *Bud, Not Buddy*



# CLEAN GETAWAY



EDUCATORS' GUIDE

## ABOUT THE BOOK

From *New York Times* bestselling author Nic Stone comes a middle-grade road-trip story through American race relations past and present that is perfect for fans of Jacqueline Woodson and Jason Reynolds.

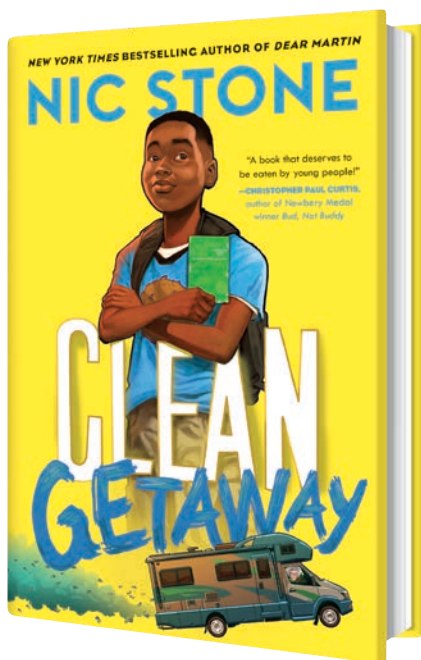
### How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma:

- **Grab a Suitcase:** Prepacked from the big spring break trip that got CANCELED.
- **Fasten Your Seat belt:** G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either.
- **Use the Green Book:** G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and most important, the way home.

### What Not to Bring:

- **A Cell Phone:** Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual.

Set against the backdrop of the history of segregation in the American South, take a trip with *New York Times* bestselling author Nic Stone and Scoob, an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem—his G'ma included.



Grades 3–7 | HC: 978-1-9848-9297-3  
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NICEL LIVINGSTONE



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Nic Stone** is an Atlanta native and a Spelman College graduate. After working extensively in teen mentoring and living in Israel for several years, she returned to the United States to write full-time. Nic's debut novel for young adults, *Dear Martin*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and William C. Morris Award finalist. She is also the author of the teen titles *Odd One Out*, a novel about discovering

oneself and who it is okay to love, which was an NPR Best Book of the Year and a Rainbow Book List Top Ten selection, and *Jackpot*, a love-ish story that takes a searing look at economic inequality and which *School Library Journal* calls "a real winner." *Clean Getaway*, Nic's first middle-grade novel, deals with coming to grips with the pain of the past and facing the humanity of our heroes. Nic lives in Atlanta with her adorable little family. Find out more at [nicstone.info](http://nicstone.info).

Responses to these questions can be shared orally, in writing, or in another medium. The educator may select the appropriate medium for each response.

## BEFORE READING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. What is your nickname? How did you get that nickname? If you do not have a nickname, imagine one for yourself, and create an origin story for it.
2. Look at the cover of *Clean Getaway*. What do you think this book is about? What questions are sparked by this cover?
3. Look at the state map of Alabama before chapter 1. Create a similar map for your state or hometown. What places, events, people, or other things do you highlight? Why did you include these items? What did you exclude?
4. What does guilt look like? Create a visual representation of guilt.
5. Have you ever tried to make amends after disappointing someone or hurting their feelings? What did you do to earn their forgiveness?

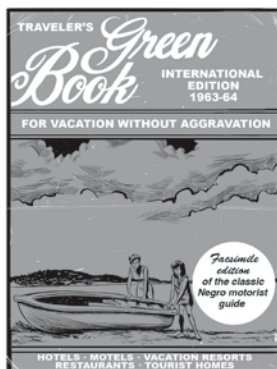
## DURING READING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Who is the narrator? What is his nickname? How did he come to be called that? (pp. 2–3)
2. Readers meet Scoob early in chapter 1. What is your initial impression of him? Why do you feel this way? What is your initial impression of G'ma? Why?
3. Scoob says that the RV gives him “the willies.” (p. 9) Why does Scoob feel this way? He misses G'ma's house. Why do we become attached to places? Is it really about the place?
4. Scoob is in trouble with his father. Why? What happened at school? What do you think Scoob's father means when he says, “the punishment is harsher and the fallout is infinitely worse”? Who are “boys like *you*”? (pp. 13–17)
5. Who is Shenice? Who is Drake? What is epilepsy? What do you think about how Scoob responded to Bryce bullying Drake? (pp. 11–15)



## DURING READING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

6. Research the *Travelers' Green Book*. Why was such a brochure necessary when G'ma and G'pop were young adults?
7. Why do you suppose G'ma is swapping the license plates on the RV? (pp. 43–44)
8. What is at the intersection of Sixteenth Street and Sixth Avenue in Birmingham, Alabama? What happened there? Why is it significant? (pp. 51–53)
9. G'ma keeps calling Scoob "Jimmy." Why? Who is Jimmy? What do you think is happening to G'ma? (pp. 82–83)
10. Scoob believes that G'ma is being less than truthful with him because she starts to whistle. How do you know if someone is being dishonest with you? What can you do about it?
11. G'ma is overwhelmed with guilt. Why does she think that being pulled over with G'pop was her fault? (pp. 135–136)
12. Chapter 15 details Scoob's dream about being back at home with his dad. What do you think this dream means?
13. In Shreveport, Louisiana, Scoob and G'ma go to a gas station. While there, Scoob becomes upset. What happens to cause his distress? (pp. 163–164) Have you heard any other stories of people of color being surveilled? What are some consequences of such scrutiny?
14. Reread chapter 19. Why is G'ma overcome with guilt? How do you feel about her confession? Would you forgive her? Are her choices justified? Explain your thinking.
15. Describe the reunion of Scoob and his dad.
16. Why do you think Scoob's mom is out of his and his father's lives? Why do you think Scoob is not ready to reconnect with her? (p. 216)
17. What does Scoob find inside G'ma's treasure chest? What do its contents inspire Scoob and his dad to do?



## Research these key moments, terms, and people:

### Medgar Evers:

- Who was he? What did he do?
- Why was his murder a key moment in the civil rights movement? (p. 128)
- When was his killer convicted? Why did it take so long? What does this tell you about the justice system?
- How have Evers and his contributions to civil rights been memorialized?

### *Loving v. Virginia* (Supreme Court of the United States case):

- What was decided by this case? (pp. 128–129)
- Why was this a landmark decision?

### Emmett Till

- Who was he? What happened to him?
- Why do you think his mother, Mamie Till, insisted on an open casket?
- Have there been any recent developments in this case? What do you think about them?
- Read the book *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson. Listen to this NPR interview: [npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4818586](http://npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4818586). Create a visual response.

### Sundown Towns

- What is a sundown town?
- How did the Green Book help people navigate sundown towns?
- Does this practice continue to this day? How? Why?

### Ruby Bridges (pp. 162–163)

- Who was Ruby Bridges?
- How did she come to play such an important role in the desegregation movement?
- Look up Norman Rockwell's painting *The Problem We All Live With*. What does it depict? How does it make you feel?



# AFTER READING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Reflect on the following quotes:
  - a. “Looks like we’re both trying to make a run for it.” (p. 48)
  - b. “It’s possible to know too much about the folks in your life.” (p. 77)
  - c. “So people don’t have to enjoy the wrong they’re doing to do it?” (p. 85)
  - d. “Man, I hate this world sometimes.” (p. 136)
  - e. “They get seventeen more days. Most of them good.” (p. 211)
2. Guilt is a recurring theme in this book. How does guilt motivate G’ma? How does guilt affect Scoob?
3. What is your opinion of G’ma? Was she a good person? Explain the multiple facets of her character. Is anyone all good or all bad?
4. What are some lessons or universal themes in this book? Did it make you think about anything in a new way? What? And why?
5. What are your thoughts about the relationship between G’ma and G’pop? Do you agree with her choice to not bring their son to visit G’pop in prison? Do you agree with her choice to keep secrets from her son? Reflect on this relationship.
6. Do you think Scoob will ever tell his dad about what G’ma confessed to him? Why or why not?
7. What realization does Scoob come to when he says, “I’m sorry you lost your mom.” (p. 215) Do you think kids sometimes forget their parents are people, too?
8. What do you think of Scoob’s decision to bury G’ma’s treasure box in Mexico? What would you have done?

The Common Core State Standards can be used to shape discussions and activities inspired by *Clean Getaway*. Because literacy classrooms encourage reading, writing, speaking, and listening each day, the following Common Core State Standards can be used:

**College and Career Readiness  
Anchor Standards for Reading**  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.8  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10

**College and Career Readiness  
Anchor Standards for Writing**  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4  
  
**College and Career Readiness Anchor  
Standards for Speaking and Listening**  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4

**College and Career Readiness  
Anchor Standards for Language**  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.1  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.4



**“Powerful, wrenching.”**

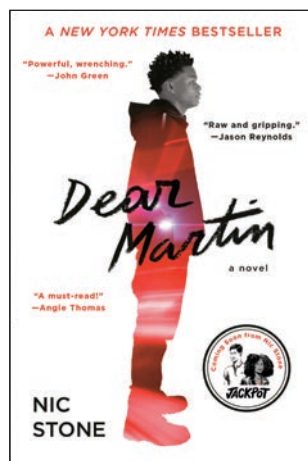
—John Green, #1 *New York Times* bestselling  
author of *Turtles All the Way Down*

**“Raw and gripping.”**

—Jason Reynolds, *New York Times* bestselling  
coauthor of *All American Boys*

**“Absolutely incredible, honest,  
gut-wrenching. A must-read!”**

—Angie Thomas, #1 *New York Times* bestselling  
author of *The Hate U Give*



★ **“Essential reading.”**

—*Booklist*, starred review

**“Stone challenges stereotypical notions of what it means to be straight, bisexual, or gay, showing how sexual identities and desires can be as complicated as the individual human brain.”**

—*Publishers Weekly*



**“Hard-to-put-down, enjoyable read.”**

—*Booklist*

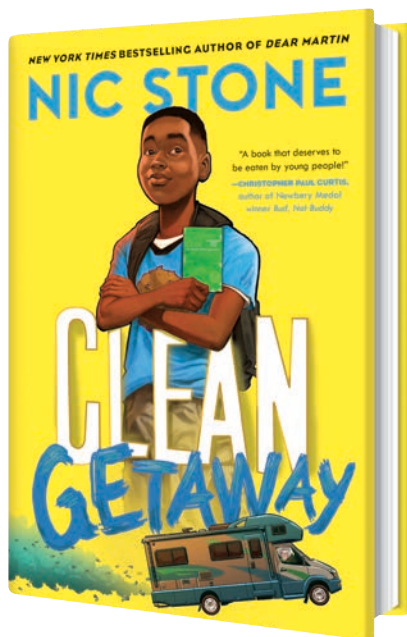
**“Stone delivers a thoughtful and polished novel about class, privilege, and relative poverty.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**“This is a real winner.”**

—*School Library Journal*





★ **“An absolute firecracker of a book.”**

—*Booklist*, starred review

★ **“A heartwarming, family-centered adventure that will leave readers guessing until the end.”**

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

**“Rich in history, Stone’s middle-grade debut entertains and informs young readers. . . . A road trip to remember.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**“A gratifyingly complex and rewarding story. . . .**

**A book that deserves to be eaten by young people!”**

—Christopher Paul Curtis, Newbery Medal–winning author of *Bud, Not Buddy*

**“Laced through with smart, sharp humor, quotable dialogue, and pitch-perfect, kid-friendly VOICE for days, *Clean Getaway* doesn’t flinch in the face of complexity, but depicts an authentic world with richness, depth, and ultimately joy. This book is a treasure!”**

—Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, coauthor of *Two Naomis*

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RHCBC



CROWN

