

English I

Summer Reading

2024

Prior to the first day of school, every incoming ninth grader is required to read the novel, *Dear Martin*, by Nic Stone. Students will submit the assignments accompanying *Dear Martin* the first, full week of school and complete an exam pertaining to the plot the second, full week of school.

Dear Martin Reading Questions

Part 1: Chapter 1-4

Directions: As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 1

1. Why does Justyce walk all the way to find Melo?
2. What happens when a police officer arrives?
3. What advice has Justyce's mother given him about handling situations involving law enforcement?
4. To whom does Justyce write a letter? Why this man?
5. How would you describe Justyce's character? Do you think this incident has changed the way he sees himself?

Chapter 2

6. Who is Manny to Justyce? Describe Manny's life.
7. What injury does Justyce have? What is it from?
8. Why was Manny's cousin arrested?

Chapter 3

9. What is the weird coincidence that involved Manny's cousin's arrest?
10. In his Societal Evolution class, who is Jared? How does Justyce feel about him?
11. Who is SJ? How would you describe her character?
12. Summarize the class discussion.

Chapter 4

13. Jared talks about the class discussion earlier. What is he upset about?
14. Where does Justyce's mom live? Where does Justyce stay?
15. Describe Justyce's conversation with his mother: what is he upset about?
16. What bothers Justyce about Manny? Why?

Writing Prompt #1

Ch. 1-4

Directions: Choose ONE of the following writing prompts to answer thoroughly. Be sure that your answer includes a claim, evidence, and reason, and check your grammar and spelling to the best of your ability. **(Aim for 5-6 sentences)**

1. In his first letter to Martin, Justyce writes, “I thought if I made sure to be an upstanding member of society, I’d be exempt from the stuff THOSE black guys deal with...” Who are “those black guys” to whom Justyce refers? How is Justyce different from them?
2. In the background of Justyce’s story, Shemar Carson’s story is unfolding as well. In the beginning of the book, Justyce admits to not following the Carson news closely, but now he is. Why is Justyce now interested?
3. Doc poses the question in his class, “Do you guys feel we’ve achieved full ‘equality’ with regard to race?” How does Jared feel? What about SJ? How do you feel?

Grading Rubric		
Main Idea - Does the response accurately answer the question in the topic sentence?	Yes	No
Evidence - Does the response support the claim with textual evidence?	Yes	No
Evidence - Is the textual evidence relevant to the topic sentence?	Yes	No
Reasoning - Does the answer connect the evidence and the claim?	Yes	No
Reasoning - Does the answer include a conclusion sentence?	Yes	No
Conventions - Are all of the sentences complete (no fragments or run-ons)?	Yes	No
Conventions - Are there fewer than two punctuation errors?	Yes	No
Total Points	____/7	

Dear Martin Reading Questions

Part 1: Chapter 5-9

Directions: As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 5

1. Describe Jared's Equality Brigade Halloween costume.
2. Who is Trey? How do he and his friends react to the Halloween costumes?
3. Why was Justyce conflicted about leaving the party with Manny and the others?
4. Describe how Justyce's feelings for SJ are evolving. What worries him?

Chapter 6

5. What exciting news does Justyce receive? Who does he tell first?
6. How does Melo react to seeing Justyce and SJ interact in the hallway?

Chapter 7

7. What is it that Jared wants to discuss in class? What is his viewpoint?
8. SJ doesn't agree with Jared. What's her argument?
9. When Justyce tells his mother his good news, what ruins his mood afterward?
10. In the postscript at the bottom of Justyce's letter, what's his dilemma?

Chapter 8

11. What is Manny's advice to Justyce regarding SJ?
12. What does Manny say he is afraid of? What is his explanation?

Chapter 9

1. What big event is happening this morning? What is stopping Justyce from focusing on it?
2. What topic have SJ and Justyce been preparing?
3. What were the results of the big event?
4. Describe SJ's behavior towards Justyce.

Writing Prompt #2

Ch. 5-9

Directions: Choose ONE of the following writing prompts to answer thoroughly. Be sure that your answer includes a claim, evidence, and reason, and check your grammar and spelling to the best of your ability (AIM for 5-6 sentences).

1. When the guys leave in their “stereotypes” Halloween costumes, Justyce notes that “the moment he said he was cool with the whole thing, he cut the brake lines and completely surrendered his power to stop it.” To what does this refer? Is not stopping something the same as allowing or encouraging it?
2. In class, Justyce and his peers discuss affirmative action. What is it? Using points made in Justyce’s class and any life experience you may have, explain whether or not you support affirmative action.
3. When Justyce gets accepted into Yale, both Jared and Trey make him feel bad about it. Explain how they are able to do this. How should someone like Justyce cope with these negative comments?

Grading Rubric

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Reasoning - Does the answer connect the evidence and the claim?	Yes	No
Reasoning - Does the answer include a conclusion sentence?	Yes	No
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Dear Martin Reading Questions

Part 1: Chapter 10-14

Directions: As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 10

1. What two things put Justyce in an awful mood?
2. Before leaving for the party, what do Manny and Justyce start doing?
3. When they get to the party, what does Blake want Manny and Justyce to do for him?
4. How does Justyce react to this request?
5. Summarize the contents of Justyce's letter at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 11

6. Who wakes up Justyce the next day? How did this person know to go find Justyce?
7. What was Justyce's dad like?
8. What advice is Justyce given?

Chapter 12

9. What happened between Manny and Jared?
10. What realization has Manny made?
11. What happened to Mr. Julian, Manny's father?
12. What was Mr. Julian's advice to the boys?

Chapter 13

1. Describe Manny's mood when he picks up Justyce. What does Manny say is happening?
2. Summarize what happens between Manny, Justyce, and the white driver. What irritates the white driver? How does Manny respond? How does Justyce want him to respond.

Chapter 14

3. What happened between Justyce, Manny, and the white driver?
4. What do we know about the white driver?
5. What does Justyce's letter to Martin in this chapter reveal?

Writing Prompt #3

Ch. 10-14

Directions: Choose *ONE* of the following writing prompts to answer thoroughly. Be sure that your answer includes a claim, evidence, and reason, and check your grammar and spelling to the best of your ability.

1. When Justyce and Manny go to Blake's birthday party, what request does Blake have? Why does this make Justyce angry? Do you think he was right to be upset?
2. After the party, Doc gives Justyce some advice: "...the only way you're gonna thrive is if you're okay with *yourself*...." Explain this advice. Do you agree, or is it more complicated than that?
3. Manny's father tells his son and Justyce about an incident at work. He says, "People often learn more from getting an undeserved pass than they would from being punished." Explain this advice and why the author may have included it in her novel.

Grading Rubric

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Dear Martin Reading Questions

Part 2: Chapter 15-19

Directions: As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 15

1. What's the setting of the beginning of this chapter (where is Justyce)?
2. What kind of damage does Justyce have?
3. What's Justyce's mother's warning or advice after the service?
4. As Justyce and his mother try to leave, who tries to talk to them?
5. Tison is being indicted. How are some of the public reacting to this?

Chapter 16

6. Why have Manny's parents invited Justyce over?
7. What do they tell Justyce about Manny's imprisoned cousin Quan Banks?
8. What do the Riverses give to Justyce?

Chapter 17

9. What's the relationship between Tomas Castillo and Garret Tison?
10. Explain what Quan describes as "BMC?"
11. Who is Martel? Who's number does Justyce leave with?

Chapter 18

12. What is happening on the news?
13. What are some pundits on the news saying about Justyce and Manny's characters?
14. Justyce has not been writing letters to Martin. Why not? What is Doc's response to this?
15. How might Jared's character be changing in this chapter?
16. What does SJ say to Justyce when Doc leaves the room?
17. Why does Dr. Rivers—Manny's father—lose his job?

Chapter 19

18. Where is Justyce headed? Why?
19. How is Martel not what Justyce expected?
20. Why might some young men be convinced to work for Martel?
21. Now, what information has come out on the news?

Writing Prompt #4

Ch. 15-19

Directions: Choose ONE of the following writing prompts to answer thoroughly. Be sure that your answer includes a claim, evidence, and reason, and check your grammar and spelling to the best of your ability.

1. Quan Banks tells Justyce that “resistance is existence.” What does this mean? Do you think that this is a valid way of life?
2. The media discovers the connection between Quan Banks and Manny. What do they say about it? Why would they think this? How and why, do you think, the media sensationalizes their stories?
3. When Justyce meets with Martel, he notes that “Quan said Jus would be welcomed, and that’s exactly how he feels” and “It makes sense that the neighborhood guys without dads flock to Martel.” Why would a gang leader be so inviting and kind? How does Justyce resist joining?

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Dear Martin Reading Questions

Part 2: Chapter 20-23

Directions: As you read, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Chapter 20

1. Where does Justyce end up?
2. What does SJ admit to Justyce?
3. What have Justyce and SJ decided at the end of their conversation?
4. What has happened to Officer Tison's home?

Chapter 21

5. Who comes looking for Justyce? How does Mama respond to them?
6. What has the Black Jihad done?
7. Where was Justyce on May 20th?
8. After Justyce's graduation, why are things tense between him and his mother?
9. Justyce stands up to his mother during their conversation. What does he say to her? Does he convince her to change her mind?

Chapter 22

10. Justyce has to testify in court. How does the DA's questioning go?
11. How does Justyce's testimony go when the defense attorney begins to question him? What does the defense attorney focus on?
12. What was the outcome of the trial? What will have to happen at a later date?

Chapter 23

13. What are SJ and Justyce doing in a couple of months? What's distracting him from this good thing?
14. What shocking news does Mr. Rentzen give?
15. What happened to Garrett Tison?
16. What is Justyce's new roommate like?
17. What can't Justyce help but notice after the last year of his life?
18. What does Justyce think was the problem with his "Be Like Martin" experiment?
19. Where and when does Justyce run into Jared again?
20. What has Jared changed his major to? What does this show about his character?

Writing Prompt #5

Ch. 20-23

Directions: Choose ONE of the following writing prompts to answer thoroughly. Be sure that your answer includes a claim, evidence, and reason, and check your grammar and spelling to the best of your ability.

1. After graduation, Justyce’s mother says “...I can’t give you my blessing on this one.” What is she talking about? How is she being biased in this scene?
2. Describe the court case and its outcome. Using what you read of Justyce’s testimony and the following news article, why do you think the jury was unable to reach a consensus on the murder charge?
3. At the end of the novel, Jared’s character seems remarkably different. Describe how he’s changed and what the author may be trying to show through his character.

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Evidence - Is the textual evidence relevant to the topic sentence?	Yes	No
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