

Name:		Date: August 28, 2018
Class Period:		
Book Title and Author: <i>Dear Martin</i> by Nic Stone		
Directions: As you read your novel, complete this note-catcher. The first column identifies the literary focus and/or task to complete; the second column provides definitions or additional information you may need; and the third column is where you write your explanations, responses, or connections.		
Literary Focus/Task	Definitions/Details or Explanations	Responses: Connections to Your Novel
Identify the protagonist(s).	A protagonist is the main character(s) in a literary work.	Justyce McAllister
Identify the antagonist(s).	An antagonist is the opposing force to the protagonist in a literary work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garret Tison (policeman) ● Racial discrimination in the justice system ● Racial stereotyping
Setting	Setting is where and when a novel predominantly takes place.	The story is set in present day Atlanta.
Synopsis	A synopsis is summary of the main events in the novel; it includes the climax and the resolution.	
	<p>The story is centered on the life of Justyce McAllister, an Ivy-League bound African American teenager. He attends a private boarding school in modern day Atlanta where it is established early and often that Justyce is a successful well rounded kid. Early in the story, he is arrested on false charges of kidnapping while trying to take his friend home. Although Justyce is released soon after, the event rattles him and he finds himself questioning the racial integrity of society and is inspired to write letters to Martin Luther King Jr. In his letters he confides in Dr. King his feelings of despair about trying to evoke any racial change. These letters help Justyce to develop his personal beliefs and understanding about his identity as an African American man in modern society. He hopes that in writing the letters he can emulate the behavior of Dr. King and understand how to act in racist situations. The climax of the story is when his best friend is shot and killed by a white police officer. His death furthers Justyce's hopelessness about racial discrimination in America. He feels as though his voice alone does not have the power to change the surrounding racism. While Justyce does attend Yale, the story is left open as to how his life in college proceeds.</p>	
Theme(s)	A theme is the central idea. It is the message or lesson the author wants to convey. **It is NOT a word or a phrase.	The theme of the text is that success and achievement cannot keep individuals from being the recipient of racism.
Symbolism	Symbolism is a literary device that represents a larger idea (eg: bald eagle=freedom; green=envy/jealousy; safety pin=rebellion)	The letters to Dr. King in the novel represent Justyce's own feelings about

<p>Identify the point of view the author uses (1st person, 3rd person limited, 3rd person omniscient). Was it a good or poor choice?</p>	<p>Point of view refers to the perspective from which a story is told.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st person: the narrator is sharing his experiences directly with the reader • 3rd person limited: the narrator is an observer and tells the story through one character • 3rd person: the narrator is an all-seeing and all-knowing observer able to tell the story through all characters 	<p>racial injustice in America.</p> <p>The author uses a third-person limited point of view to share the experiences of Justyce McAllister. However, the letters to Dr. King are written in the first person and provide insight into the thoughts of Justyce. It was a good choice to shift between third and first person because it helped to mirror the sense of isolation that Justyce is experiencing.</p>
<p>Give at least five examples of specific words and/or phrases that the author uses to create a particular tone throughout the novel.</p>	<p>Tone is the writer's attitude toward his subject. In fiction, this is the narrator's attitude toward the text. In non-fiction, this is the writer/speaker's attitude toward his subject.</p>	<p>"Everywhere I turn, I run into people who want to keep me down" (Stone 83).</p> <p>"Being treated the way I was and then hearing Jared insist there's not a problem? And then hearing Manny agree with him? It sucks, Martin. It really does" (Stone 83).</p> <p>"Things aren't as equal as folks say they are" (Stone 13).</p> <p>"I want to live like you [Martin Luther King Jr.]. Do what you do. See where it gets me" (Stone 13).</p> <p>"Every time I turn on the news and see another black person gunned down, I'm reminded that people look at me and see a threat instead of a human being" (Stone 95).</p> <p>His attitude toward his situation is helpless and depressed. He uses phrases such as "see where it gets me." and "it sucks" to convey this view.</p>

<p>Did you like the novel? Why or why not? Who would enjoy reading the novel?</p>		<p>I thoroughly enjoyed the novel for its open portrayal of racial discrimination in modern America. I was well aware of racism in America before reading this, but the book challenged my understanding of what it means to be an African American man. The constant reminder that no matter what you accomplish people will see you as a black man before they see anything else. The book directly addressed the struggles of a black man in a way I never fully understood before reading it.</p>
<p>What did you dislike about the novel?</p>		<p>I disliked how the book did not spend enough time reflecting on the pain or the hopelessness Justyce feels towards the events that take place in the story: his arrest or his friend's death. Those were powerful events that were not thoroughly addressed.</p>
<p>On a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest) what would you rate this book? Why?</p>		<p>I would give <i>Dear Martin</i> 4 out of 5. The portrayal of the story and the exposition of the characters was excellent. I enjoyed it so much that I would have enjoyed more content, possibly his life during college.</p>