

Learning About Social Justice, Activism, and Important Historical Events Through the Literature of Nic Stone

A gift from the students at Great Neck North Middle School



Advocate Collages:

Some of our students researched an advocate of their choosing and then created a collage representing that person's work, accomplishments, and philosophy.



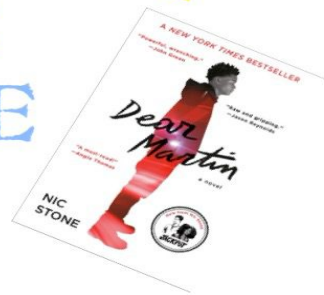
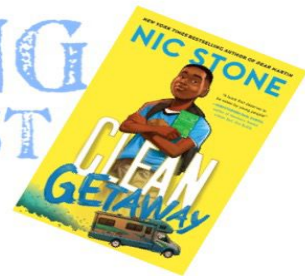
"ARE YOU EVER
CONSIDER THAT MAYBE
YOU NOT SUPPOSED TO
FIT? PEOPLE WHO MAKE
HISTORY REALLY DO."

(NIC STONE, DEAR
MARTIN)

"PEOPLE OFTEN
LEARN MORE FROM
GETTING AN
UNDERSERVED PASS
THAN THEY WOULD
FROM BEING
PUNISHED." (NIC
STONE, DEAR
MARTIN)

CREATIVE
INTELLIGENT
BRAVE
HARDWORKING
RACIAL EQUALITY ACTIVIST
AUTHOR
COLLEGE
GRADUATE
SHE WON THE
AUDI AWARDS
HER BOOK BECAME THE
NUMBER ONE SELLER

NIC STONE



BY OREN NISIM



Clinton White House
Communications Team.
President of the Human
Rights Campaign.

Chad Griffin

Involved in the Perry v. Brown court case about California's anti-gay marriage initiative.

Helped found the American Foundation For Equal Rights.

"All across my home state, throughout the South, and around the country, LGBT people and their families are seeking basic respect and dignity. This victory is an essential step on the journey toward full equality for all."
-Chad Griffin

"Utah's ban on marriage equality does nothing to strengthen or protect any marriage. Instead, it singles out thousands of loving Utah families for unfair treatment simply because of who they are. Our Constitution does not allow for such blatant discrimination."
-Chad Griffin

Brave
Uplifting
Determined
Uplifting
Motivating



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



PIC-COLLAGE

NAOMI OSAKA STANDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH



"Michael Phelps told me that by speaking up I may have saved a life. If that's true, then it was all worth it." (Osaka)



"I always try to push myself to speak up for what I believe to be right, but that often comes at a cost of great anxiety. I feel uncomfortable being the spokesperson or face of athlete mental health as it's still so new to me and I don't have all the answers. I do hope that people can relate and understand it's O.K. to not be O.K., and it's O.K. to talk about it. There are people who can help, and there is usually light at the end of any tunnel." (Osaka)

MENTAL HEALTH IS SO IMPORTANT AND WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE IT BECAUSE IT INTERFERES WITH PEOPLES LIVES. WE SHOULD ALWAYS SUPPORT SOMEONE STRUGGLING SO THAT THEY CAN GET BETTER.

"There can be moments for any of us where we are dealing with issues behind the scenes. Each of us as humans is going through something on some level. I have numerous suggestions to offer the tennis hierarchy, but my No. 1 suggestion would be to allow a small number of "sick days" per year where you are excused from your press commitments without having to disclose your personal reasons." (Osaka)

NAOMI HAS SPOKEN UP AND USED HER SPOTLIGHT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MENTAL HEALTH.



NAOMI URGES SPORTS PRESS TO CHANGE AND ACCOUNT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT ATHLETES STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH.



“There are workers in America who are literally one sick child away from losing their job” – Dina Baskt

Hardworking

**Helpful Determined
Thoughtful**

Co-founded A Better Balance

Promotes fairness in
the workplace

**EQUAL MEANS
EQUAL**

Was named “1 of 20 people and groups fighting for a more equal America”

***Brought and introduced
pregnant workers fairness act***

Has to face policymakers and legislators who do not believe pregnancy discrimination is real, daily.

Caring

*Helps women
in need*

**BELIEVE AND FIGHTS FOR
PREGNANT WOMEN WHO NEED
WORK EQUALITY**

Advanced fair paid leave for pregnant women, and for families struggling in over 40 states.

Is an attorney and womens activist

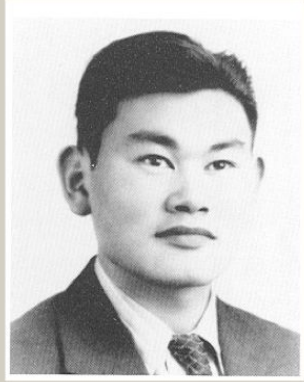
By: Leah Heimowitz



**“WHEN WORKERS DON’T
HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN THEIR JOBS AND
THEIR FAMILY... THERE
WILL BE EQUALITY” –
DINA BASKT**



**Considerate Brave
Encouraging**



Rebellious

Goal-oriented

Dedicated

Determined

Passionate

Courageous

**Fred
Korematsu**

Fearless

Inspiring

**Belligerent
Strong**

Was issued to internment camps along
with his family

"We are all Americans in
this country"

Korematsu v. United States

"All of them turned their backs on me at that
time because they thought I was a trouble
maker"

Arrested and later convicted
for not following orders

Resisted the internment of Japanese
Americans during WW2

In Trump v. Hawaii, the Supreme
Court overturned the Korematsu
decision

Awarded the Presidential Medal
of Freedom

Civil rights
hero/activist

"It was a great victory for all Americans and
all Asians in this country, that this will
never happen again"

Brought freedom to
Japanese Americans

Got his charges
overturned after 40
years

Thought that the relocation
orders were unconstitutional

"I wouldn't change anything for the world. I gave an outlet for athletes to speak up about their mental health and their well-being and learn that you can put yourself first before the athlete." (Biles)



"For me, it was important to include the mental health aspect because I know a lot of people coming out to watch this show go through similar things and to know that I'm not just brushing it aside or hiding it under the rug, that I'm bringing that talking and viewpoint to the forefront," (Biles)

SIMONE BILES: MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE



Mental health is an important social issue because it affects many people in their day to day lives. Many people struggle with mental health issues without talking about it. So, is important to bring awareness to the issue and let people know that it's okay to have a mental health issue and let them know that other people are going through the same thing.



To advocate for mental health Simone Biles has done interviews about her own mental health experiences and used the attention she gets as an athlete to promote awareness of mental health.



Following the 2020 Olympics, Simone Biles went on the Gold Over America Tour where she made mental health a key message. She didn't disregard or stop acknowledging her mental health after the Olympics.



*George Takei
advocates for LGBTQ+
and Japanese
American rights,
he is a part of the
human rights
campaign.*

*George's younger life wasn't
so easy as he grew up in a
Japanese American
internment camp along side
his family*

kind

determined

activist

honest

generous



*George Takei and
his husband*

George Takei

humble

**hard-
working**



*George Takei is most famous
for his role on Star Trek, but
he has also voice acted in Mulan,
he has also written many
books his most famous being
"They Called Us Enemy"*

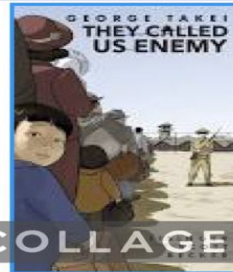
progressive

brave

caring

open-minded

**"why do i love a country that
hates me" - George Takei**



PIC•COLLAGE

MAYA ANGELOU

CHLOE HAIMOF



“If you’re always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be.” -Maya Angelou

NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS (2000)

“You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I’ll rise” -Maya Angelou

ARTISTIC

Presidential Medal of Freedom (2010)

POETRY

Unique writing style

BRAVE

HOPE

“**I BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON IS BORN WITH TALENT.**” -**MAYA**

ANGELOU

DIFFERENT

World famous author

About mental health



More than 43 million Americans struggle with mental health each day (2019).

About 1 in 5 adults deal with mental health issues (2019).

There are more than 200 mental health disorders and each extremely affect people life all across the world (2019).

Mental health discrimination (stigma) is a major problem for people in school and work places (2019).

Robin Lehner

Robin

Lehner is an NHL goalie who is an advocate for Mental Health. He struggled with mental health issues and substance abuse throughout his career. "I told him that I was personally in a bad place and was not sure that I would be able to play in the game we had the next day" (Lehner). This quote was said by him in a article published by him in 2018. Later in his career the New York Islanders gave him a chance and he became the most loved goalie in the league. He was at a very low point and was able to bring his life back together. From then, he has done many things to help and to advocate for people with mental health issues and for mental health in general.

This social issue is so important because of how many people it affects throughout all ages. There are so many types of mental health disorders and so many people struggle with it. These many different disorders can affect people who struggle with these disorders life's and decisions.



Robin Lehner has done many things in his career to help people with mental health issues. Robin Lehner has over 113,000 followers on twitter and has made many statements about mental health. He has given people advice and has offered help. The most notable thing he has done was a quote said by him at the NHL award ceremony after winning the the Vesna trophy he said this "I'm not ashamed to say I'm mentally ill, but that does not mean I'm mentally weak" (Lehner). This was seen as one of the biggest and most powerful things said by an NHL player. Overall, he as brought so much more attention to the issue of mental health in the hockey community.

By

PIC•COLLAGE



BY GABBY
SEDAGATPOUR

ACTRESS

ANTISEMITISM ACTIVIST

Parks And Recreation

Comic Book Writer

2019 BEST MUSIC FILM GRAMMY

mom passed away

TALENTED

Fighter

COULDN'T FIT IN WITH THE JEWISH GIRLS AS A YOUNG GIRL

PROUD

STRONG

"I HAVE NO ISSUE WITH MY IDENTITY"

BRAVE

CAPABLE

Smart

WON ENSEMBLE OF THE YEAR IN 2010 AT HOLLYWOOD
FILM FESTIVAL

DETERMINED

CONFIDENT

"The Office"

Helpful

"It's something I do not take for granted"

COMIC BOOK TURNED
TO FILM



RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
SEXUAL ASSAULT



MARGINALIZATION

**"WE WANT TO TURN VICTIMS INTO
SURVIVORS- AND SURVIVORS INTO**

DETERMINED THRIVERS" **STRONG**
COMPASSIONATE

ME TOO MOVEMENT

**"GET UP. STAND UP. SPEAK UP. DO
SOMETHING."**

GIRLS FOR GENDER EQUITY

"EMPOWER THROUGH EMPATHY"

SUPPORTIVE **PIC•COLLAGE**

TARANA BURKE



Women's Equality

Emma Watson

At a very young age, Emma Watson became something of a feminist icon practically by default. Ever sense the film series came to an emotional conclusion, she used her platform to advance a more globally oriented brand of feminism. (Jane)

Emma Watson has given speeches in Bangladesh, and Uruguay. She has has said numerous speeches and has spoken and has been appointed by HeForShe spokesperson and the UN Women Goodwill ambassador. This was all relating to the Women political participation and education for girls. This was all advocating for the Women's rights movement. (Micha Frazer- Carroll)

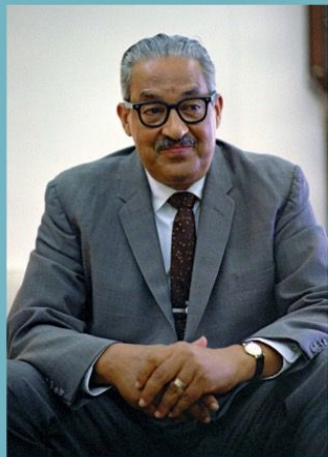


One year the media went crazy when Emma Watson announced she would be taking a break on acting for a year to focus more on gender equality and Woman's rights and to promote it. Emma Watson was truly a very admirable young feminist role models. (Katie Heyes)



As you know Emma Watson is a famous actor who has played the role of belle in beauty and the beast. Emma has said at an interview about her role as belle" "Belle is absolutely a Disney Princess, but she's not a passive character- she's in charge of her own destiny". This shows how Emma advocates for Woman's rights and how she loved her role as Belle because belle didn't let problems/conflicts get past her. (Micha Frazer- Carroll)

This social issue is important because no matter what gender you are you should not be treated differently. And Women should be allowed to do everything men can do



"History teaches that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure."

Brown v
Board of
Education

Affirmative
action

First African
American

Supreme Court
Justice

Against the
death
penalty

Supported
abortion

Top
attorney

Educated

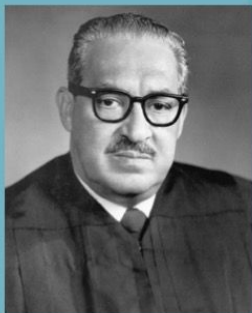
Won 29-32 cases

Wasn't
supported by
many Southern
senators

Target of
many death
threats

Used power
of the court
to end Jim
Crow
segregation

Courageous



Civil-rights lawyer



Activist Letters:

After completing their read of *Dear Martin*, some 8th grade students researched an activist of their choosing and then wrote that person a letter in Dear Martin style.



April 5, 2022

Dear Zora Neale Hurston,

At whatever occasion you may be reading this, I hope this letter finds you well. As I feel deeply privileged by the opportunity to introduce myself to you, I will begin with informing you that my name is Haruka, and I am a 14 year old living in Great Neck, New York. Born in Japan and eventually encountering the ways of America, I've come to recollect the ways in which the changes have shaped my outlook on life and my surroundings. I felt an importance in informing you this as I recognize the writing style you led on, successfully combining the standard English and Black vernacular throughout your works. Through your moving literary works, I've been able to recognize the ways in which you incorporate the backgrounds of your life and the experiences of life to lead the advocacy for important movements such as the Harlem Negro movement of the 1920s.

Throughout what seems like a long, but seemingly short life I've lived of 14 years, I've at times felt in need of additional guidance through difficult times of my life. I write to you, Ms. Hurston, as I've grown to become captivated by how much influence a work of literacy can do to someone. As I am not a significantly outspoken person, I find you a great influence as your use of literature have opened the reality of the racially unjust life of the American South in the early 20th century. In the midst of a still complicated American country, I feel an importance in being able to depict the reality of our societal state and make sense of the changes needed in order to improve the different troubling aspects of society. The ways in which I, myself, can bring something of value to the world, and follow through with the changes I desire in our society, even if it is something so very small.

Pride and its beauty you held within the deepest of your character, was something I was truly inspired by. The pride of your culture, your race, your identity, I believe all mirror the successes of your truthful

narratives. Your desire to search for the truth in black folklore, traveling across the South and throughout the Carribeans, the connections you've made through your discoveries of the past and present, are truly a narrative of creation and sophistication.

Their Eyes Were Watching God, perhaps the most notable of your literary works, has captured the sensual characteristics of love and culture. Through your representation of the folkloric nature in your unique writing style, I've come to understand the ways in which you've involved yourself and your personal roots into the evolution of your fictional characters, the blossoming of your groundbreaking writing formed through the character of your identity.

The numerous works you've produced have paved a way for a person like me, young and still trying to make sense of the present, to deepen the reflections of myself, my identity - to create *art*. Your literary works have truly helped to deepen the meaning of a racial inequity, how to identify and fight for the issues in our reality, instead of carrying on with the obscure illusions created by others of society.

As I end of this letter to you, I take a moment to appreciate the endurance you held within yourself, to open the ways of diverse literature, showing the rawness of your identity through your narratives, and illustrating the brutality of racial injustice in America, all while the complexity and hatred of society was faced against you throughout much of your life. As also with your ambitions to collect the truths of black folklore, you've truly inspired me and the future generations to understand the value of identity and to be proud of it. Thank you, truly, for all you've done.

Sincerely,

Haruka

In honor of Zora Neale Hurston, novelist, anthropologist, and civil rights activist, 1891-1960.

April 6, 2022

Dear Langston Hughes,

My name is Selena and I am an 8th grade student at North Middle School. I am writing to you due to my admiration for your works of poetry and your important role during the Harlem Renaissance. The writings you create depict the Harlem renaissance, the Great Depression, the McCarthy era, and the Civil Rights Movement. Your perseverance through the hard times of racial injustice inspire me and I wonder how you do it.

I know you wrote many novels, short stories, essays, and plays about African American equality. I also admire how you heavily promoted African American heritage and culture in your work. Along with that, I am inspired by the honesty and realisticsity you incorporate into your writing. I'm aware that because of your relisticsity, many black intellectuals criticized you. I question how you continue to find the positive sides even when the entire world is against you.

In one of your poems "I Too", I find it very heartfelt from the way you are speaking from the soul around racism. It is expressed in your writing that you just want to feel equal. In another one of your poems, "Harlem", you ask, "What happens to a dream deferred?". This inspires me to never give up or stop trying. You also faced many

personal struggles along with the racial struggles that the blacks were facing in the United States.

I admire how you tell your readers not to give up because change will come. I know you faced family struggles including your father not being able to accept your sexuality. I'm sorry you were not able to be who you truly felt like you were. But even with these obstacles in your way, you achieved many accomplishments, winning several major literary awards for your poems, plays, short stories, and novels. You believed in the worthiness of all Black people to appear in art, no matter their social status. I, as well as many others, admire you for promoting equality, and condemning racial injustice during a time when it was needed most. Your philosophy still lives and carries on today.

One day I hope to be as strong as you are, and learn to overcome, and address any problems or injustices that I come to face. Your work truly inspires me to have hope in the future, and never give up.

Sincerely,
Selena

In honor of Langston Hughes, writer, poet, and equality activist, 1901-1967.

April 4, 2022

Dear Nelson Mandela,

Nelson, I will be heavily blunt: I do not believe that you will like our world now. Of course, I am sure that it was much worse when you were alive. Earth is much more modern; however, it is hard to ignore the hatred instilled in everyone since the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to you simply to seek advice, and that is all, though I wish I could share it with the world; I am just a middle school student, however, so I don't think that many people will listen, no matter how many books are published where the tables are turned. It seems a bit discouraging to see how many people have been affected by racism and prejudice, and not being able to help those people. I also feel invasive whenever I ask anyone for help, or asking anyone if they need help

I am sure you must be wondering who I am; I feel guilty for not introducing myself earlier. My name is Nina, and, as stated, I am a middle school student, currently in the eighth grade. There are other things about me that I would normally state in other circumstances, but I wouldn't want to cause you any disrespect, since you have achieved much during your time here. I am sad to say that I only found out about you just recently. For that I am extremely sorry. I do think that many people will benefit from your wisdom that you shared, but, unfortunately, many are ignorant. I hope that writing this letter may help me find salvation of some sort.

While researching you, I found that you won a Nobel Peace Prize during your journey to end apartheid, which is a policy I'm sure you have been familiar with since you have been born. I believe that this is a wonderful thing you accomplished, and hopefully it will help inspire me to speak out against injustice as well, if I ever make the decision to do so. It seems a bit unfair

where I am, since we haven't been able to help much around the world, especially in current events. As I am writing this, a war is unfolding (well, it has already started) between Russia and Ukraine; my family has never been fond of Russia's president, as my mother was born there. My other family members are also aware of how bad the situation is in Europe as well. On one hand, I do not think that we are helping enough; however, I feel as if too much support for one side will cause another world war, and I want to avoid that possibility as much as possible. I am in a particular struggle that I feel that you would understand, Nelson, being you advocated for civil rights not only in South Africa, but around the world. I appreciate that you cared so much for the rights of other people, since this kind of compassion is what we so desperately need now. I hope that by the time I have finished writing the letter, you will have gotten the message I want to spread.

I know I can't hope for things that are unlikely to happen, but I hope that maybe the situation will come to an end. In any case, I hope your wisdom will eventually come to light; I won't promise that I will be able to speak up about my opinions, but I will work on myself more. I will write to you again the next chance I get. Maybe I will be able to experience your humor first hand!

Sincerely,

Nina

In honor of Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa and civil rights activist, 1918-2013.

April 4, 2022

Dear Stevie Wonder,

I'll start off by introducing myself. My name is Avia and I'm an 8th grade student from Great Neck, New York. This year in English class I have learned a lot about social justice and read about different people who have advocated to make a difference in our world. Amongst these people, you have stood out to me the most! There are many factors that make things unfair and put disabled people at disadvantages. I find it amazing how much you have done in an attempt to help these people receive equal treatment.

The reason why I chose to write to you is because I want to know more about what changes you aspire to make in the world to help many people who deal with disabilities. I find it quite upsetting that so much of our population suffers from various disabilities and there's not enough being done to support these people. It's unfair that people with disabilities aren't treated the same as anyone else. I believe that these people all deserve to be treated as well as anyone else and no different than any other ordinary person. In addition, it's great how you express your advocacy through your music and spread the message within the lyrics in your songs. I can also empathize with you and other people who are blind because my grandmother is blind as well and I can tell how hard it is when you constantly need help from others to do daily things. I hope that soon new steps will be taken around the world to make the lives of those with disabilities and other issues easier. What things can we all do to help?

Stevie, you truly appear to the world to be an incredibly successful person. Not only for your Grammy Awards, but also for all the achievements you've made to advocate for others. Being designated as the United Nations Messengers of Peace with your focus on disabilities must have been something you're really proud of! You have really inspired so many of us young people. You've made us consider what we can possibly accomplish in life. The fact that you held a campaign to make Martin Luther King Day a national holiday in the United States really brings out your heroism. Civil rights are something that affects so many people in our country and it's great to see your support. I would also like to mention

your recognition for your compassionate efforts, including the United States President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Children's Diabetes Foundation, Junior Blind of America, and many more. It's outstanding how sympathetic you have been, especially helping people with disabilities similar to your own. To add on, with your annual House Full of Toys concert you have donated toys for so many children and have helped families who are in need so much. I also think it's very thoughtful of you to hold charities to raise money, and pitch in your own earnings for blind people, including for the Royal National Institute of Blind People. I love how you support countless different foundations including organizations for people in hunger, for Parkinson's research, and tons of more important causes. Your generosity really came through when you donated net proceeds from your song to help those who were terribly harmed from Hurricane Katrina. You have clearly already done so much for millions of people and I can't wait to see what more you will accomplish in the future.

Stevie, I admire the fact that you use your voice and connection to the public to make the world a better place, especially for those who are less fortunate than others. Within your music you have spread a loving and inspiring message to many people. By seeing all that you have done, and more that you plan to do, I'm truly inspired to help make a change in the world around me too! You have also inspired me to follow my dreams and to not give up on what I want to do in life. I will make sure to be more mindful and helpful when I'm ever in a scenario where I'm interacting with a blind, or any disabled person, including my grandmother. I will support those who are dealing with different issues and do whatever I can to be there for them. Thank you for all that you have done for the world.

Sincerely,

Avia

Dedicated to Stevie Wonder, singer-songwriter, musician, and civil rights activist.

April 4, 2022

Dear Malala Yousafzai,

Hi Malala. Before I explain why I've decided to write to you, I want to introduce myself. My name is Ava and I'm in 8th grade. I'm a 13 year old girl who is surrounded by many women who I look up to. I have four sisters and I'm mainly inspired by my older three. My older sisters are in college and seem to be way different from me. It just shows how 6 years or so of education can really pay off. And of course since you're older than me, you definitely have been through a lot and gained a lot of education too.

Malala, the reason why I decided to write to you is because I feel inspired and motivated by you. Women have come so far through the past years and you are a part of it. I know that I can't directly relate to you. I grew up with a good amount of education and really never had to worry about not receiving any education. But I realize that you didn't get the privilege of feeling safe and getting a good education. I notice that it's not only just you and women from where you lived but it's also many other women from all over the world too. This realization made me want to use my privilege wisely and feel proud about being a woman. I need help in trying to put my education and privilege to good use.

As a young girl in elementary school, I remember seeing your book *I am Malala* in all my classrooms. I read your book and it made me realize how much bravery you have. I read that you got shot for trying to fight for women's education. When I read that, I really thought you would've given up. I was shocked to find that you didn't.

In sixth grade, I remember sitting in my English class writing an assignment about you. I read that your father was a teacher and owned a school. Is that why you're so passionate about girls' education? Did you always feel that way when you were younger? You were only 11 when you started to raise your voice. I'm 13 now and still can't imagine being so brave. I find it so unfair how you, not even a teenager, was shot while going on a school bus. It just shows we live in an unfair society. It shows women are still not seen as equal and I feel like we should change that.

What gave you the courage to keep fighting? Why didn't you just quit? The fact that you kept going on with your dreams made me feel like I shouldn't quit on my beliefs too. I always think that my ideas or dreams in life will never take me anywhere. That they'll just be useless in the end. That was not the case for you. I mean Malala, look at how successful you got! Your efforts in fighting for girls' education let you get a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics, and economics at Oxford University.

Malala, you continue to prove that women are able to accomplish anything and that hard work and good education can really pay off. You inspire me to continue to work and I will attempt to be the best version of myself that I can be. I will keep your hard work in my mind and hope that I can be as successful as you one day.

Sincerely,

Ava

Dedicated to Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Pakistani activist.

March 28, 2022

Dear Shirley Chisholm,

My name is Juliana and I'm writing to you from Great Neck North Middle School. The reason I'm writing this letter to you is because I am curious and inspired by everything you did in your time. You have definitely made a big impact on society with your fight against racism and sexism, and I want to know how you managed to achieve everything you did.

One of the first things I learned while researching you was that you were a child to immigrant parents and were raised by your grandma in Britain to escape the Great Depression. What made you want to become a political leader of America if you spent a big part of your life in Britain? As a child of two immigrants myself, I would like to know how heavily that impacted your life and if it influenced your career choices. You moved back to America to go to Brooklyn College and then became a teacher. What caused you to become a teacher instead of diving headfirst into politics after school?

When you did get deeper into politics, you were soon elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. Your work introducing new bills to help women, domestic workers, and poor students unable to afford school was revolutionary and still has impacted society today, although things aren't perfect yet. When you were the first black woman to win an election into the House of Representatives, you influenced many people, especially with your inspiring slogan, "Unbought and Unbossed." As I was reading about you, your slogan popped up everywhere and seemed to be the very being of your personality. Even after becoming a junior member of congress, you

stuck to your ideals/slogan, all while being relentless in working your way up and being acknowledged. After white men were always chosen before you, you argued until you got the position you wanted in the Veterans' Affairs Committee, trying to give more rights and opportunities to black people. You also inspired many people while speaking on college campuses about your anti-war ideas and women's liberation.

You also became a founding member of the National Organization for Women and the Black Congressional Cause, influencing many people through your acts and speeches. Even your failures, although seemingly disappointing at the time, were still a big step for society. Being the first black woman to run for president proved to the world that they don't need to be held back by stereotypes and that they can be anything they want. Although you lost, you showed everyone what was possible through trying.

Overall, your work has heavily impacted society and inspired me as well. I hope that when you were in retirement, you looked back in satisfaction with what you have accomplished, and not disappointment in what more you could have done.

All the best,

Juliana

In honor of Shirley Chisholm, politician, civil rights and gender equality activist, 1924-2005.

March 28, 2022

Dear Jesse Owens,

Let me start off by introducing myself. I'm Liana, an eighth grader who is a student athlete, and aspires to play division one softball, plus possibly professional softball. If not, I'd like to be a journalist or reporter for the New York Mets.

This is why I'm writing to you. You are a well known athlete who overcame adversity in more ways than one. The fact that you wanted to go to Berlin on the verge of the Second World War, just so you could prove Hitler wrong, is astonishing. I want to know how you deal with that adversity. Wasn't being in Nazi Germany nerve-racking, especially considering that you're African American? Did you doubt yourself? Did you feel like an outcast throughout your career? Although I didn't, and probably (and hopefully since the last thing I want is another Holocaust along with an anti-semitic, cruel government) will not ever have the experiences you do, I definitely feel like an outcast at times.

You accomplished so much during your life. You overcame adversity by being an African American track star at a time where there was so much discrimination in the world. You set three world records at one college meet, not including the one in which you tied the current world record. When the United States wanted to pull out of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, you told them not to so you could prove Adolf Hitler's belief of Aryan superiority wrong, which you did. You ended up winning four gold medals at that game, embarrassing Hitler so much, he refused to shake your hand. It amazes me how you had

that confidence and determination to take down Germany in the Olympics, even when Hitler could have done some harsh things to you for "Germany's benefit".

Even after your track career, you continued to play a big part in the community, giving many speeches about playing fairly, living a good life with a clean record, and being proud of the U.S.. You worked with children, helping the next generation, and were insistent on the idea that competing in athletic events would help solve any racial or political issues. One part of being an athlete is also being a good person off the field. Not being controversial, and contributing to society in a positive way shapes an athlete almost as much as talent. You had all of these features, and I hope to have them too.

A lot of athletes can crack under the pressure of things like this, or sometimes fade away after a career, becoming nothing but a note in a long history of Olympians, athletes, and in your case, African Americans. However, that wasn't the case for you. Throughout your life, you were resilient, brave, and strong, in more ways than one. I'd love to hear how you did it, since I could take that advice to heart and implement it into my own life. Anyways, that is all I have for now.

Until next time,

Liana

In honor of Jesse Owens, Olympian and civil rights activist, 1913-1980.

State Posters:

After completing their read of *Clean Getaway*, some of our students took a closer look at the settings in the novel and created posters highlighting important historical events.



Part 1

"People can just be so awful Scoob-a-doob,". In this scene Scoob learns about the horrific bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church. G'ma starts crying because of how sad it is a Scoob learns how bad things were back in the sixties.

Part 3

I feel like society has and should learn that violence should never be a way to express your hatred. Also, no one should hate a person just because they are a different race or ethnicity. You should also learn from the church that you should stand up and fight any hate that comes your way, peacefully.

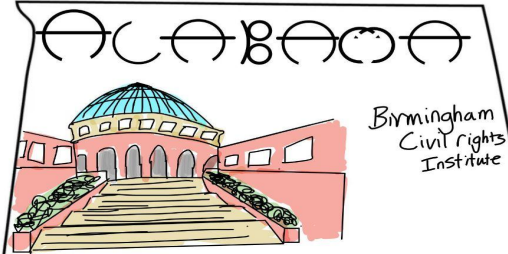


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"The church was a meeting place for black activists and citizens during the movement, acting as a sort of headquarters for activism planning." (Civil Rights Trail) This quote tells us that the church played a big part in the civil rights movement, and the fight for freedom for African Americans. This also makes it an even bigger shame and crime that it was bombed, the bombing shows the hatred there used to be.



Part 2



Part 1

"I believe that is the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute." 'Whoa.' Scoob says. The place almost takes upon the whole block." Among G'ma's listed places to visit, this place was among the top. Near one of the most important areas in the civil rights movement, it is a commemoration to black history that there is a lot to learn from.

Part 2

"The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham." (<https://www.bcri.org/about-bcri/>) This area is an area that was created to increase understanding of the unfairness and civil rights for black people. It is there to be a reminder that things had to be done in order for change to occur, and the people who make those changes must be remembered.

Part 3

We all need to remember the heroes. They are the people who made the lunges and changed our society. Without them, we would have nothing. We must learn to always strive to understand these people and be like them. We never shall forget what their sacrifices were made to accomplish.

BIRMINGHAM

Part 1

"We stopped here. She sniffles again. 'Your G'pop and I...' April third, 1968. I'll never forget because it was the day before Martin Luther King Jr. Was assassinated. He'd preached in this church."

Part 2

"The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Signifies that Birmingham does not hide from it's past. It acknowledges that where once the city housed two people, Black and White, unknown to one another except through the painful thread of segregation..."

Part 3

This Civil Rights Institute is important because they celebrate people differences, rather than hide them. I think society needs to learn this, and that it is important they teach this.



ALABAMA

Cheaha State Park

Part 1

"Scoob holds the map a little closer. 'Cheaha State Park. The highest point in Alabama is scrawled above the spot of green.' In the book, Gma has always wanted to go here with G'pop, but they could

not because it was not one of the safest spots to go to Gma's green room showed people where safe places to go were. This path was for them.

Part 2

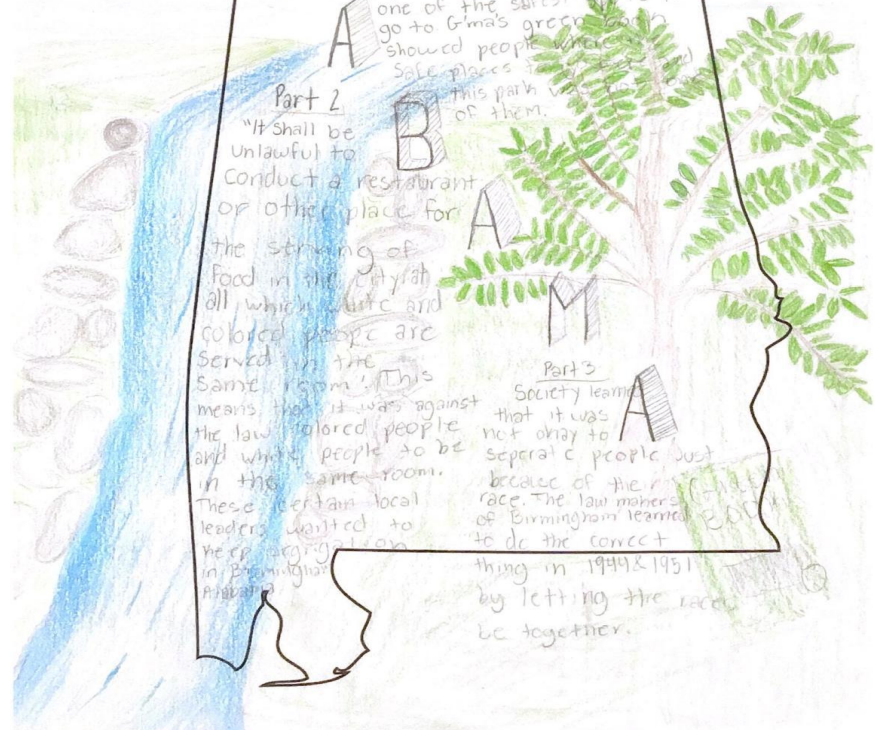
"It shall be unlawful to conduct a restaurant or other place for

the serving of food in the city of all which white and colored people are served in the same room. This means that it was against the law colored people and white people to be in the same room.

These certain local leaders wanted to keep segregation in Birmingham Alabama

Part 3

Society learned that it was not okay to separate people just because of their race. The law makers of Birmingham learned to do the correct thing in 1944 & 1951 by letting the races be together.



Part 1

"She shakes her head. 'Your G'pop and I were never religious, but we felt we had to stop by and pay our respects as we were passing through here on our Trip.' (Stone 25) Scoob learns how important this church is to his grandparents who aren't even religious."

ALABAMA

Part 2

"The church was a meeting place for black activists and citizens during the movement, acting as a sort of headquarters for activism planning" (civil rights trail). This church was a very important place for a lot of people and was a safe place for people of color.

Part 3

The destruction of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was a devastating time for many people and the time it took to get the justice is absurd, but we should have places like these as a reminder not to repeat the past.

Sixteenth
street Baptist
Church, Alabama

Part 1

"Mmmhmm. April third, 1968. I'll never forget because it was the day before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He'd preached in this church." This quote impacts G'ma because she lived through something that made history. G'ma knew MLK went to the Baptist church they were at.

Part 2

"The Birmingham church bombing occurred on September 15, 1963, when a bomb exploded before Sunday morning services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama—a church with a predominantly Black congregation that also served as a meeting place for civil rights leaders." This quote explains that people have bombed a church that Black people go to. This is most likely because the people that go there were mostly Black.

Part 3

Society should learn that harming people from a different race isn't going to change the fact that they are different from you. People from different races shouldn't be getting harmed for being themselves.

16th Street Baptist Church,
ALABAMA

MISSISSIPPI

Part 1: "Had it circled on my map... Jimmy and I were together when we heard about Medgar's murder, and it hit me how much danger your G'Pop was

in by existing." This impacted G'Ma because she realized that she wanted to marry G'Pop but

Part 3: I think society learned about social justice from Medgar Wiley Evers' house because people have made the house a national monument and are getting people to see it. This shows that society was shocked about what happened to Medgar Evers and are changing their ways. Also, people recognize all the issues he fought against like World War II and racism.

Part 2: "Sure, you were risking your life... if you were not considered free, then it wasn't your life anyway. The historical importance of

Medgar Evers' house is that he lived there and was surrounded by white people. Medgar Evers wanted to show others and

make a stand without being violent but is the reason for the time spent making his house a national monument.

Medgar Evers' house

Part 2

From the article, "E.F. Young Hotel is

Being Cleaned Out," it names, "The monumental landmark is an important resource for Black travelers in the years of segregation and provided good lodging."

This made things easier for Black people since it gave a secure place to stay—especially during segregation. This let lots of people find some place to stay. Although this is just a little hotel, this was one of the most significant landmarks in the 60s.

There are 3 million people living in Mississippi.

Part 1

During these few paragraphs, G'Ma recalls her stay at the E.F. Young Hotel. The woman working the

front desk at this place didn't even want to book us a room."

This clearly demonstrates how the woman was very racist and unfair to the couple.

This probably infers that G'Ma was pretty made and upset

that the woman really denied their request to let them book a room just because they were a

multiracial couple.



Part 3

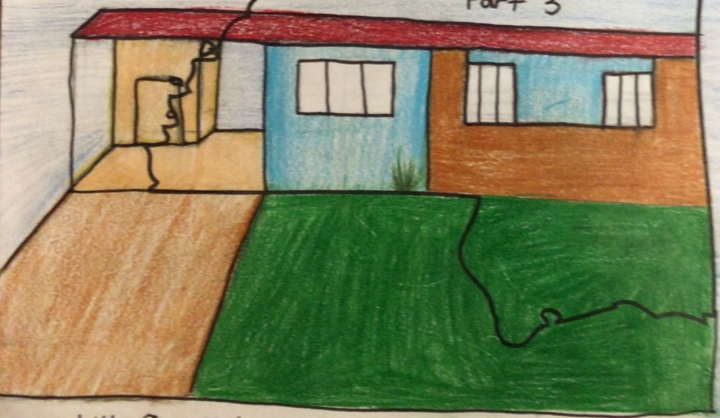
Society should learn that simple things may have an impact on bigger things. The hotel provided such a wonderful place to stay that helped numerous lives from the racist people outside that rejected them over and over again. Instead, the hotel was the landmark which was one of the safest and securest.

"The house is 'still serving as a reminder of our divided past and as an educational tool to bring knowledge, excellence and positive participation'"

Medgar Evers' house is historically important because it helps people learn and be reminded about Medgar. It also helps people be reminded of how we were divided in the past. Part 2

"Gma hasn't said a word. Or moved. She's just... staring." This is how going to Medgar Wiley Evers' house impacted Gma. She is speechless. Going to this house made her remember what happened to Medgar Evers. She doesn't know what to say. part 1

Society has learned that Medgar Evers should have been a more respected man, and not killed about social justice from this location. People should've respected more because of the good things he did during the Civil Rights Movement. Part 3



Lilly Orenstein

MISSISSIPPI

1. "Scob glances in her direction and isn't surprised to see tears weaving down over her wrinkly cheeks. This proves how this has big memories for Gma. Even before she started crying she says that this place was the last place a nice picture of Grop, and we know how much Grop meant to Gma when he was still alive."

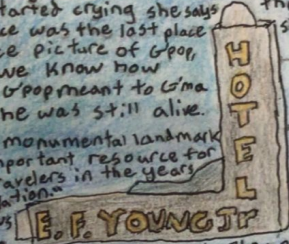
2. "The monumental landmark is an important resource for black travelers in the years of segregation." This shows that the hotel was an important place because even in the quote it says it was a "monumental landmark"

Additionally, the hotel was big for Black travelers when people were separated.

3. Society should learn from this important hotel that segregation was a very silly and bad thing. Just seeing how this hotel was one of the few that black people could go to is

horrible. Imagine having to drive over states just to have a roof over your head.

Mississippi



MISSISSIPPI

PART I

"Medgar was shot down dead right there in the driveway! Gma says, shaving Scab out of his musing's with so much force, his head swims. 'HUH?'"

This quote has a great impact on Scab as it comes as a shock when he learns that he is standing in the exact place Medgar Wiley Evers was killed. Scab had not even known who Medgar was before Gma told him, and now he found out that for doing what was right, Medgar was murdered. These facts had quite an impact on Scab, as he was starting to see all of the injustice in the world.



The Mississippi state flag



State bird: mockingbird

PART II

"The House, which has been made into a monument commemorates the legacies of two civil rights activists, who, from their modest, three-bedroom ranch home, devoted their lives to the quality of life for African-Americans, according to a Department of the Interior press release. This quote proves the Evers' house had immense historical importance, because it was made into a monument for future generations to see and learn from. In other words, it is very important to history."

PART III

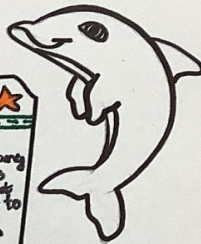
I think that society has learned to be less hateful and more inclusive to everyone, no matter what their skin color may be. After all, Medgar was shot down dead in his own driveway just because he stood up for what was right, and his killer wasn't convicted until nearly thirty years later. So, from the Evers' house, I think society has learned much and can learn even more.



State flower: magnolia

★ Part One ★

"Frankly, black folks weren't any keener on it than white folks were. Part of the reason we got the P.V. is so we wouldn't have to worry about a place to sleep while on the road. The women working the front desk at this place didn't even want to book us a room." This quote impacted Scab and his Gma because it shows more of how much racism and segregation there was during Gma's past. This quote also impacts them because it explains why the P.V. was so important. Additionally, Scab learned a bit more of who his Gma was, and he gets another part of the story put together by this quote.



★ Part Two ★

"The monumental landmark is an important reason for black travelers in the years of segregation and provided good lodging." This place was important because at the time in which problems were high, this hotel would give black travelers a place to stay. This place was important since because racial discrimination and segregation problems were high, black people couldn't stay at places where only white people were allowed. This hotel was very important.

The society should learn from this location about social justice and that black people should also be respected. It is also learned from this hotel of how cruel and unfair the world was at the time that black people had to have a specific place to stay because white people wouldn't allow black people to be in the same place as them just because of the color of their skin.

★ Part Three ★

The society should learn from this location about social justice and that black people should also be respected. It is also learned from this hotel of how cruel and unfair the world was at the time that black people had to have a specific place to stay because white people wouldn't allow black people to be in the same place as them just because of the color of their skin.

MISSISSIPPI



Thank you, Nic Stone!

Your literature has helped to shape our perception of ourselves and the world around us. We look forward to becoming advocates for the causes that mean the most to us.

