



# GREAT NECK SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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November 29, 2021

Dear Parents:

This year, our visiting author (in collaboration with North Middle School) will be noted Young Adult author Nic Stone. She is an author whose work has been praised as “raw and gripping” by Jason Reynolds and “powerful, wrenching” by John Green. Her novels align with Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop’s concepts of viewing works of literature through “windows, mirrors and sliding glass doors” -- windows offer readers a view into someone else’s experience, sliding glass doors allow readers to enter the story and become a part of the world, and mirrors reflect their own culture and help them build their identity. Last year’s visiting author, Grace Lin, led us to Dr. Bishop’s concepts, and they have inspired us in our teaching. As Ms. Lin has said, “A book makes all cultures universal.”

Our sixth grade students will be reading *Clean Getaway*, a story about a boy and his grandmother on a unique road trip through the American South. Our seventh and eighth graders will be offered a choice of either *Clean Getaway* or *Dear Martin*, a novel about a high school senior who must navigate through some difficult experiences as he comes of age as a Black teen in the present-day South.

Please note: *Dear Martin* contains some sensitive subject matter. As always, we strongly believe in the literary merits of the story, which is why we’ve chosen to offer this particular book. Students will be advised accordingly and will be able to choose the book that best fits their comfort levels.

Please feel free to visit the author’s web site, [www.nicstone.info](http://www.nicstone.info), for further information. Our school library will have copies of her books to preview, as will the Great Neck Library. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s English teacher via email or call (516) 441-4644.

Thank you,

The South Middle School English Department