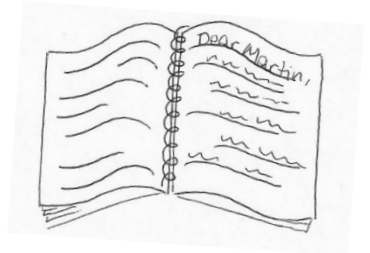


## JUNIOR HISTORIANS

# Summer Reading Club: *Dear Martin*

## Letters to Leaders

Inspired by King's patience, tolerance, values, and determination, Justyce McAllister writes letters to Martin Luther King, Jr. in Nic Stone's book, *Dear Martin*. Justyce hopes to live his life just like King, becoming a better person while learning more about himself and the world around him. Instead of sending the letters, Justyce writes to King in a journal.



Using *Dear Martin* as inspiration, try writing letters to someone you admire. Which leader, notable figure, activist, or individual has the patience, tolerance, values, and determination that you want to emulate? Once you identify which leader you would like to write, use a journal to collect your thoughts, reflect on the world, and consider the ways you can live your life following their example.

## Hints on Finding a Good Leader

If you're not sure how to pick a person to whom you can write, think about what qualities you think are important in the people you admire. According to the [Center for Creative Leadership](#), a good leader has 10 important qualities and characteristics. (We've paraphrased them here to help).

1. Integrity: honest with strong moral principles you live by
2. Ability to delegate: enabling people who work with you to make decisions and have autonomy
3. Communication: the ability to transmit information to people effectively
4. Self-awareness: understanding and knowing oneself and how people view you
5. Gratitude: say thank you often...even when someone does something they're required to do
6. Learning agility: the ability to figure it out when you don't know what to do
7. Influence: being able to authentically use logic, emotion, or collaboration to convince people
8. Empathy: the ability to understand and share the feelings of someone else
9. Courage: be willing to speak up and share ideas, but also to have hard conversations
10. Respect: treat people with respect

