

PEACE · ANTI-VIOLENCE

ONE BOOK BALTIMORE



2018

FAQ

What is One Book Baltimore?

One Book Baltimore is a collaboration among several local organizations to provide opportunities for Baltimore City 7th and 8th graders, their families and community members to connect through literature by reading the same book. This year's book will be *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone. Discussions and programming will be held across the city this fall to spark conversations focused on peace and how to promote change in our community. Free copies of the book are being distributed to all Baltimore City Public Schools 7th and 8th graders. Additional copies are available for check-out at all Enoch Pratt Free Library locations, as well as Little Free Library sites throughout the city.

When is One Book Baltimore happening?

The initiative will launch with a talk from author Nic Stone at the Baltimore Book Festival on September 30th. Special programming tied to the book and themes of peace and anti-violence will take place in library branches throughout the fall. The project ends with a series of activities at every Pratt Library location during Baltimore Ceasefire weekend, November 2-4.

How was the book selected?

A selection committee comprised of librarians, teachers, One Book Baltimore partners and representatives from the community created a list of age-appropriate books that include themes of peace and anti-violence. From there, school and library staff selected the top five finalists. The full selection committee then read and discussed those five and ultimately chose *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone, largely due to the depth of conversation it invites around its central themes.

What will be accomplished?

We hope to facilitate positive change in our city through encouraging discussions that build connections and bridge communities. Our city has sadly struggled with violence. By choosing a text that explicitly deals with peace and anti-violence, our hope is that individuals may engage in meaningful open dialogue about their experiences, the challenges facing our communities and may ultimately see a new path for themselves.

Why are you focusing on 7th and 8th graders?

City Schools determined that the themes of peace and anti-violence would resonate with middle school students and the project would have a positive impact. The text is age-appropriate for 7th and 8th grade students. One Book Baltimore is a new initiative and our hope is to potentially expand to other grade levels in the coming years.

Can I participate? How?

Anyone of any age is invited to participate. Extra copies of *Dear Martin* are available to check-out at all 22 locations of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, as well as Little Free Library sites throughout the city. Programs associated with One Book Baltimore are free and open to all ages.

What community partners are involved?

One Book Baltimore is a collaboration between Baltimore City Public Schools, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Ceasefire, Maryland Humanities, Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Maryland Book Bank, First Book, CityLit Project, WBAL-TV, and the T. Rowe Price Foundation.

Will this be an annual event?

We hope so. A lot depends on what we learn from this year and how the initiative fits into other programming. We look forward to hearing the community's feedback and incorporating it in the future.