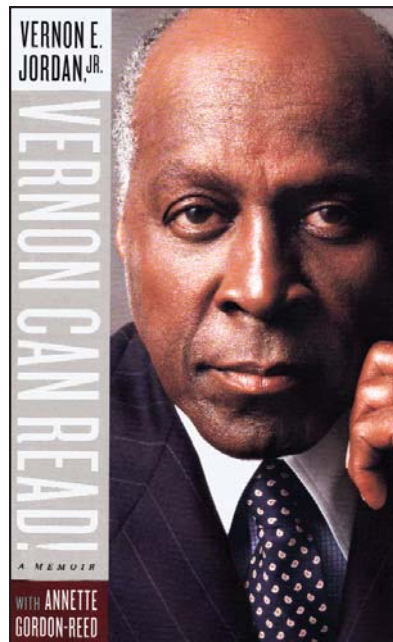


## Suggested Questions for Discussion

1. Why is the title appropriate for the book? Describe the significance of *Vernon Can Read!*
2. Why did Vernon Jordan write this book?
3. What role did his mother and father play in his upbringing?
4. How did Vernon Jordan happen to attend college in Indiana?
5. Describe how the 1950s are different from 2002 in terms of family structures, and religious and cultural values.
6. According to Vernon Jordan, what makes for a successful life? Do you agree?
7. How does Vernon Jordan suggest black individuals best serve their communities?
8. Do you think it's harder for a black individual than it is for a white individual to succeed in contemporary America? Why?
9. Additional questions for discussion can be found at [www.evpl.org](http://www.evpl.org) (click on Programs and Events).



**ONE  
BOOK  
ONE**  
COMMUNITY



Find out what happens when all of Southwestern Indiana reads *Vernon Can Read!*, a memoir by Vernon Jordan.

### One Book / One Community Founding Sponsors

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**ONE  
BOOK  
ONE**  
COMMUNITY

**Reading and  
Growing Together  
in Southwestern  
Indiana**

## About the Program

One Book / One Community is a grassroots reading program to develop a community built around the shared experience of people reading and talking about the same book. Bringing people together to discuss ideas in books can play an important role in breaking down barriers between people, cultures, and economic and educational backgrounds.

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is joining with the Evansville Courier and Press, WNIN FM 88.3, the Office of Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr., local schools and universities, bookstores and businesses to promote a culture of reading in the Evansville community.

## What can I do after I've read the book?

- Join a book discussion group.
- Use "Suggested Questions for Discussion" in the back of this booklet.
- Participate in a local high school or university class.
- Listen to special "One Book / One Community" programming on WNIN FM 88.3.
- Share it with others.
- Attend special author events on Tuesday, September 24.

## How can you participate?

Participation is free and open to the public – everyone is encouraged to join. You can call or stop by any Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library to borrow a copy of *Vernon Can Read!*. Or you can purchase the book at 20% off list price at participating bookstores.

By registering for One Book / One Community, you'll be eligible for a drawing for one of four sets of tickets to the special VIP Reception with Vernon Jordan preceding his speech at the Victory Theatre on Tuesday, September 24. You can register at any Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, Barnes & Noble or on the web at [www.evpl.org](http://www.evpl.org) (click on Programs and Events).

### Participating library locations:

Central East	22 SE Fifth Street 840 E. Chandler Ave
McCullough	5115 Washington Ave
North Park	750 North Park Drive
Oaklyn	3820 Oak Hill Road
Red Bank	120 S. Red Bank Rd
Stringtown	2100 Stringtown Rd
West	2000 W. Franklin St

## About *Vernon Can Read!*

*Vernon Can Read!* is a memoir by a veteran of the American civil rights movement that offers "a very personal take on the Black experience since the end of World War II."

Readers have found it to be down-to-earth as well as inspiring.

Vernon Jordan held various executive positions in the NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, and the National Urban League before becoming a highly successful investment banker and lawyer in Washington, D.C.

The book's title refers to a comment by a wealthy southern employer when he discovered Vernon in his library reading a book during his break from his summer job as a chauffeur.

*Vernon Can Read!* is co-authored with Annette Gordon-Reed, a graduate of Harvard Law School and a professor at New York Law School. She also has published *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: an American Controversy*.

## What The Critics Say:

"*Vernon Can Read!* is candid, worldly, controversial, smart...a marvelous memoir by a man who knows what to tell and how to tell it."

**From Book Page, Nov. 2001**

"...anyone interested in the history of the civil rights movement will appreciate this detailed account of the people and organizations that helped transform a segregated nation."

**From Publishers Weekly**

## Join Us

Vernon Jordan will come to Evansville to discuss his memoir, *Vernon Can Read!*, answer questions and autograph books on:

Tuesday, September 24

7:30 PM

Victory Theatre

Admission is free and open to the public.