



BOOK CLUB  
RESOURCE GUIDE

Political Commentary

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, there is a wooden chair with a curved back and a small wooden table. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The room is lit with soft, warm light, creating a comfortable atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.

THANK YOU FOR  
CONSIDERING BE A GREAT  
ONE FOR YOUR NEXT  
BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB  
RESOURCE GUIDE

STEVE L. LOOTEN SR.

*Be A Great One* is a surprisingly potent blend of inspirational quotes and insightful commentary. While the title might suggest a self-help book brimming with platitudes, this compilation offers something far richer. The author skillfully interweaves quotes from presidents, athletes, and other notable figures, creating a tapestry of wisdom that speaks to the human experience of striving for success. The 2024 election serves as a compelling backdrop, reminding readers of the power of belief and the importance of active participation in shaping one's future. The book isn't just a motivational read; it's a thoughtful reflection on the American dream and the enduring power of perseverance. While the structure feels somewhat episodic at times, the collection's overall message is consistently inspiring and relevant. If you're looking for a quick yet profound read that will leave you feeling invigorated and ready to face your own challenges, *Be A Great One* is definitely worth picking up.

WORD COUNT: 18,950

PAGE COUNT: 116

KEY WORDS: Leadership | Personal Development | Motivation

DEMOGRAPHICS: Young Adults (Gen Z) | Aspiring Leaders | Those Seeking Motivation

COMP BOOKS: How to Win Friends & Influence People by Dale Carnegie | The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale | The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko

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# Be A Great One Book Club Party

## Theme

A celebration of American spirit, achievement, and the pursuit of dreams. The décor should blend classic Americana with a touch of modern elegance.

## Invitations

- Design invitations that look like vintage campaign posters, featuring bold typography and patriotic colors (red, white, and blue). Include the book's title and a call to action – “Seize the moment! Join us for a ‘Be A Great One’ book club party!”

## Decorations:

- Patriotic Flair: Red, white, and blue balloons, streamers, tablecloths, and napkins. American flags (tastefully displayed).
- Vintage Americana: Old photos of American landmarks, historical figures, or sporting events. Use mason jars as vases for flowers.
- Campaign Trail Elements: Create a mock campaign trail using banners with inspiring quotes from the book. You could even have a ballot box for guests to submit their favorite quote from the book.
- Sports Memorabilia: If possible, incorporate some sports memorabilia (posters, signed balls, etc.).
- Attire: Suggest guests dress in patriotic colors or in outfits representing their own personal American Dream.

# THEMED PARTY SUGGESTIONS



## Food & Drinks:

- All-American Buffet: Classic American dishes such as burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, apple pie, etc. Consider a build your own burger station.
- Patriotic Desserts: Red, white, and blue cupcakes, a flag cake, or other themed desserts.
- The American Dream Cocktail (See Signature Drink)

## Activities:

- Quote Trivia: A trivia game featuring quotes from the book. Award prizes for the winners.
- Campaign Speech Competition: Guests can prepare short campaign speeches about their own personal goals or ambitions, using inspirational quotes from the book as inspiration.
- Dream Board Creation Station: Provide materials (poster board, magazines, glue, etc.) for guests to create their own vision boards for the future, reflecting the book's themes of goal setting and aspiration.
- Discussion: Dedicate time for a structured discussion based on the pre-selected book club questions. [See Discussion Questions below for inspiration]
- Music: Play upbeat and patriotic music, blending classic American tunes with modern inspirational songs or use the Spotify curated music list for this book [See below]

# THEMED PARTY SUGGESTIONS

## The American Dream Cocktail

This layered cocktail visually represents the diverse elements of the book, with each layer symbolizing a different theme.



- Bottom Layer (The Foundation): A deep amber layer of Bourbon. Bourbon represents the American spirit and the enduring history woven throughout the book.
  - Middle Layer (The Climb): A vibrant orange layer of Blood Orange Liqueur. The blood orange represents the struggle and challenges faced in the pursuit of success, mirroring the climb referenced in the book. The bright color contrasts with the seriousness of the Bourbon layer.
  - Top Layer (The Victory): A light, sparkling layer of Prosecco. The Prosecco represents the triumphant achievement of goals, the celebration of success, and the hope for a bright future.
  - Garnish: A small, candied orange slice.
- **Instructions:** Carefully layer the ingredients in a highball glass, starting with the Bourbon, followed by the blood orange liqueur (using the back of a spoon to slowly pour and prevent mixing), and then top with the Prosecco.
  - **Optional additions:** A splash of ginger ale to the Prosecco layer to enhance the celebratory feel.

# SIGNATURE DRINK

- God Bless the U.S.A. by Lee Greenwood
- YMCA by Village People
- We Are the Champions by Queen
- You Can't Always Get What You Want by The Rolling Stones
- Beat It by Michael Jackson
- Knockin' on Heaven's Door by Guns N' Roses
- We Will Rock You by Queen
- Losing My Religion by R.E.M.
- Memory from the musical Cats
- November Rain by Guns N' Roses
- Time to Say Goodbye by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman
- Everybody Hurts by R.E.M.
- Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen (often covered by Rufus Wainwright)
- Rich Men North of Richmond by Oliver Anthony
- An American Trilogy by Elvis Presley



# SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. In the center, a wooden chair with a curved back sits on a light-colored rug. To the left and right are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. A small table with a plant on it is visible behind the chair. The background features a window with light streaming through. The overall style is soft and artistic.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE  
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN  
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING



1. The book draws heavily on the 2024 election. How did the inclusion of this contemporary event enhance (or detract from) the book's overall message?
2. Many quotes emphasize the importance of hard work and perseverance. Do you agree that these are the most important factors in achieving success, or are there other crucial elements?
3. The book features a diverse range of voices, from presidents to athletes to everyday people. Which perspectives resonated most strongly with you, and why?
4. Several quotes highlight the importance of knowing your why. How can readers effectively identify and articulate their personal motivations and goals?
5. The concept of the American Dream is explored throughout the book. How does the book's perspective on the American Dream resonate with your own understanding of it? Has it changed?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. The book touches upon various challenges, including financial difficulties and societal inequalities. How effectively does the book address these issues, and what solutions or approaches are suggested?
7. Many quotes emphasize the importance of seizing opportunities. How can readers better prepare themselves to recognize and capitalize on opportunities in their own lives?
8. The book includes anecdotes from the author's personal experiences. How did these personal stories contribute to the overall impact of the book?
9. What is the most valuable piece of advice or insight you gained from reading *Be A Great One*? How will you apply this in your own life?
10. The book concludes with a call to action. What steps will your book club take to contribute to a better future, based on the book's themes?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Steve Looten's career has always revolved around storytelling, initially as a local TV sports anchor for over 20 years, highlighting the victories of local champions. Starting in 1980, he worked at KTVO-TV, KHQA-TV, and WGEM-TV. After a 23-year hiatus, Steve returned to WGEM-TV in 2024, bringing his storytelling skills back to the spotlight. Inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, Steve found parallels between the strategies in the 2024 Presidential race and the sports world. Now retired, he continues to appreciate the power of winning strategies

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <https://www.indiesunited.net/steve-looten>