

2nd and 3rd Grade MLK Discussion Guide

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr. by Doreen Rappaport

Begin by...

- Show students the front and back cover and ask:
 - What do you know about Martin Luther King Jr.?
 - Why do you think the author chose the title, "Martin's Big Words?"
 - When the author uses the word, "big," do you think she means? Make the connection that Dr. King's "big" words are not always so large in length as they are in importance: Freedom, Peace, Love, etc.
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- Explain to the student that this book is going to teach them about Martin Luther King's life.
 - As you read, students should think about how using words and doing service/action are powerful ways to change the world

Begin reading, stopping to ask questions and discuss the text along the way.

Here are some questions you might consider asking:

- After page 3, What does Martin Luther King Jr mean when he says, "When I grow up, I'm going to get big words, too?"
- After page 7, "What did Martin Luther King Jr learn? How does love drive away hate?"
- After page 9, "What does Martin Luther King Jr believe about the way people should live together?"
- After page 14, "Does this quote - 'when the history books are written, someone will say there lived black people had the courage to stand up for their rights' remind you of anything in your own life or family's history?"
- Between pages 16-20, you might have to stop to paraphrase or explain what's happening.
- After page 20, "How are Martin Luther King Jr's beliefs similar to yours?" Make the connection that even if he is a different color and religion, his values and beliefs are similar

After reading, ask:

- Which of Martin Luther King Jr's BIG WORDS are alive for us today?
- What are ways that we can carry on his legacy or that we can be like him?

Some additional resources to teach about Martin Luther King Jr.:

2nd grade - <https://www.timeforkids.com/g2/remembering-march/?rl=en-570>

3rd grade - <https://www.timeforkids.com/g34/martin-luther-king-3/>

<https://sn4.scholastic.com/pages/text-sets/the-civil-rights-movement.html>

