



Read Aloud Lesson based on the book

I am Martin Luther King, Jr.

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*Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the greatest figures in American history. **I am Martin Luther King, Jr.** is an illustrated book that tells the stories of his life from childhood, through the civil rights movement, to his impact on the country and memory today. The story continues to remind readers of the impact words can have and the change peaceful, collective action can make.*

*After reading or listening to **I am Martin Luther King, Jr.** (check YouTube for a read aloud), answer and reflect on the questions below.*

1. One of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s most famous speeches began with "I have a dream...". He dreamt of equal freedom and right under the law for Black Americans. What is a dream you have? Do you think others share that same dream? What ideas do you have for achieving that dream?
2. Even as one of our country's greatest heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr. was inspired by others. He was inspired by David Henry Thoreau who taught him about "civil disobedience" and creating change without violence. He was also inspired by Rosa Parks, who was able to stand up for herself on the bus, in a way he hadn't before. Who have you learned about that has inspired you? Is there anyone in your community that you look up to? What can you learn from these people?
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. faced many obstacles. Think back to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. It took three tries, thousands of people, and even support from the president to complete the march. Even when faced with time in jail, Martin Luther King, Jr. never gave up or stopped working towards his goal. Think of an obstacle you have faced in the past or a time you have struggled. How did you overcome that obstacle? Who supported you to keep going? What goal can you use as inspiration to never give up?

4. Children participated in some of the civil rights protests, some even as young as six. Do you think these protesters were brave? What other qualities do you think it takes to stand up for what is right? Make a list. Do you think you would participate in a protest if it was for something important like civil rights and racial equality?

5. Martin Luther King, Jr. was fighting against many inequalities: segregation in schools, different treatment of black and white people in restaurants and on transportation, and Black Americans in some states being unable to vote, amongst others. Thanks to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the hard work of other civil rights activists, laws have been passed to change these things. Even so, inequalities still exists in our country. Can you think of any inequalities? Who do they affect most? How can we work to end these inequalities?