

We March



By: Shane W. Evans

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Genres: Picture books, nonfiction, constitutional freedoms

On August 28th, 1963, over 250,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. to be part of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was at this march that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic I Have A Dream speech. In his speech, Dr. King called for the end of racial injustice. His dream was to have an America in which all people - regardless of race, color or religion - could have the same opportunities. Today, people are still marching to end racism, and to have the America that was Dr. King's dream.

In the book *We March* by Shane W. Evans, we learn that people who participated in this march ranged from our youngest citizens to our oldest citizens and came from all over the country. They came on planes, trains, cars, and buses. Following the March on Washington, the government passed the Civil Right Act of 1964 and The National Voting Rights Act of 1965. We all know, however, that there is still a lot of work to be done.

Before the Read Aloud:

Think about the issues of today and how they impact your home, your school, your classroom, and your community. Then, think of yourself as a change agent. What would you change? How would you make change happen?

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During the Read Aloud:

1. *We March* shows us that whole families went to the March on Washington. Do you think it is important for the youngest citizens like yourself to join in marches? Why or why not?
2. It took a lot of work to get all those people to join the 1963 March on Washington. Getting lots of people together to join a cause always takes a lot of work. Imagine that you have an idea for how to bring your community and the local police together to build a better relationship. How would you let people in your community know about your idea? How would you get more and more people to join in?
3. *We March* describes how people “follow our leaders”. What characteristics do you think leaders have?
4. Can you think of someone you know in your home, school, or community who you would describe as a leader? What makes that person a leader? Be prepared to share.
5. Now that you have described what it takes to be a leader and who you see as a leader in your world, what leadership characteristics do you have? Be prepared to share.

Take Action Project:

As this book ends, we see Dr. Martin Luther King raising his hand and shouting, “to our dreams!” What is your dream for the future of America? How could you make your dream happen?

