

MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: The Story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: The Story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Themes: Growth and Change, Holidays, Multicultural

Grade Level: K-7 (ages 5 to 12)

Running time: approx. 8 minutes

SUMMARY

This program tells the life story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in simple words and luminous pictures. It also introduces children to Dr. King's teachings about nonviolence. Throughout the program, key words from Dr. King's teachings appear as part of the art. At the beginning of the story, young Martin is reading a "White Only" sign in his hometown. Martin grows up, becomes a preacher and studies the writing of Mahatma Gandhi. He puts his ideas into practice at the Montgomery bus boycott and other civil rights demonstrations. He speaks to the nation, and more and more people listen to him. The program ends with some of the "big words" for which Dr. King is remembered: *peace, love, freedom, together* and *dream*.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will watch and listen to the biography of a great American.
- Children will learn why we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Children will identify key words in Dr. King's teachings on nonviolence.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Ask children to identify Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to share what they know about him. Make a chalkboard list of their responses. You might add local reference points, such as streets, schools or buildings named for him. Introduce the title of the program and explain that the big words they will see in the program are the big ideas Dr. King wanted people to follow.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Children may feel saddened or upset after viewing, because of how Dr. King died. An effective way to handle this is to have a moment of silence in memory of Dr. King, and then talk about the ending statement that, "His big words are alive for us today." Encourage students to share what they think Dr. King's words mean in our everyday lives.

Connect the program to writing by asking children to watch the program again and

copy all the big words they see. Have them use these words in sentences, paragraphs and essays. If you have students who speak languages other than English, encourage them to translate the words into their own languages and share them with the others.

Connect the story to art by making a bulletin board or mural illustrating Dr. King's "big words." Encourage students to draw or photograph scenes from their everyday lives that illustrate these ideas. One effective idea is to arrange photos and small drawings so that they form huge letters.

Connect the program to history by having children make a timeline of the important events in Dr. King's life. Timelines are especially effective with teams. Have one team construct the timeline, another team add the events of Dr. King's life and a third team add the major events that happened in American history during his life.

Other related videos and films available from Weston Woods include:

AMAZING GRACE, by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch
WHITEWASH, by Ntozake Shange, illustrated by Michael Sporn
YO! YES? by Chris Raschka

CALL 1-800-243-5020 TO ORDER THESE AND OTHER WESTON WOODS VIDEOS!

This guide may be photocopied for free distribution without restriction

