

## Lesson: *Martin's Big Words*

### Author/Teacher: Marlie Leopold

### Grade Level: Grade 5

---

#### Essential Question:

How do Dr. Martin Luther King's big words influence us today?

#### Project and Purpose:

Students will listen to a read aloud of the book *Martin's Big Words* while they are looking at the pictures. Students will analyze quotations from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discuss their impact on their lives.

#### Standards and Objectives:

##### CCSS:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1](#)  
Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.2](#)  
Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

#### Materials:

- Book *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, written by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier (Hyperion Books, CH; reprinted 2007)
- Chart with a picture of Dr. King
- Chart paper and writing tools for small groups
- Paper and writing tools OR writing programs on computer for student paragraphs

#### Procedure:

1. Display the book *Martin's Big Words* and the chart of Dr. King's picture.
2. Ask students to discuss words and phrases that come to mind when they think of Dr. King. They will turn and talk with their classmates. After the brief discussion, they will write their words on the chart around the picture.
3. Read the book aloud to the students. While reading, discuss the quotations.
  - What makes his words big?
  - Are they all long words?
  - What does big mean in this context?

1. Discuss with partner: Why did he say, “When I grow up, I’m going to write big words, too”? What did “big” mean to him? Students will share their answers with the class. Class will agree and/or disagree and explain their responses.
2. After discussion, break students into small groups and have them look at the chart the class completed earlier. Ask students: Looking at the chart, were any of your words mentioned in the book?
3. Have each group choose one of the quotations from the book and analyze it.
  - What does it mean?
  - How does it relate to your life now?

Groups will discuss their selected quotations for about 15 minutes.

4. Groups will write their responses on their group’s chart. Once they are finished, they will present to the class.

**Conclusion:**

Ask students: Based on what you already knew and information that you gathered from the book, what are Dr. King’s redeeming qualities? Write a paragraph reflecting on Dr. King. How do you think he would feel today? What would be his advice to this generation? How would he feel about (select a current event)?

**Notes:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---