

POWERFUL WORDS FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. use critical thinking skills to interpret quotations of Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. use a dictionary or thesaurus to define unfamiliar words
3. paraphrase and draw inferences from the quote
4. create a class book of quotations

TEKS: SS K.1A, 2A, 14B, 15A, 1.1A, 17B, 18A, 2.1A, 18B, 19A

Materials Needed: copies of quotations (Attachment 1), response sheet (Attachment 2), classroom dictionaries and thesauruses, unlined paper, markers

Vocabulary: quotations, civil rights, freedom, equality, non-violence

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., using popular children's books such as *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport or *A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by David Adler.
2. Ask students to discuss a time when they felt strongly about something that needed to be changed. It could be a rule at home or school or a policy enforced by school, sports organization, or club. Discuss the best way to make a change, pointing out that Martin Luther King wanted change, but believed that the best way to bring about change was through non-violence.
3. Read and discuss the "I Have a Dream" quote, asking students to define any new words and to analyze the meaning of the quote.
4. Pre-select and distribute quote cards (Attachment 1) to individual or pairs of students. Have classroom dictionaries and/or thesauruses available for students.
5. Distribute Attachment 2. Students will read the quote, then list any words that are unfamiliar. Students should look up the new words and write a definition in the appropriate box.
6. Then students should reword the quote, expressing the main thought of the quote in their own words.

7. Allow each student (or pair of students) to read their quote to the class and explain the meaning of the quote.
8. Each student will write a paragraph summarizing, explaining, and drawing inferences from the quote.
9. Distribute unlined paper on which students will copy the quotes, using colored markers. Students may decorate the pages with borders, pictures, or symbols. Gather all quotes to form a class book or bulletin board display.

G/T Extension: Students will:

Create their own quotes about rights, justice, or equality to add to the class book.

Quotes
Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.

Hate causes people to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

One who condones evil is just as guilty as the one who perpetrates it.

The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.

Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

Do not condemn the man that cannot think or act as fast as you can, because there was a time when you could not do things as well as you can today.

If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted or Beethoven composed music. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here live a great street sweeper who did his job well.

Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

The time is always right to do what is right.

Courage is the power of the mind to overcome fear.

We have flown the air like birds and swum the seas like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like brothers.

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend

Powerful Words from Martin Luther King, Jr.

Quote:

New Words	Definitions
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

In my own words
