

# Martin's Big Words

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Black History, Civil Rights, Acceptance, Bravery

**Grade Level:** 1st to 3rd grade

**Book Brief:** This story of Martin Luther King, Jr., is told using his own "big words."

**Author:**  
Doreen Rappaport

**Illustrator:**  
Bryan Collier



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** Find out what your child knows about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Explain that not everyone in the US has always had equal rights. *\*This book talks about Dr. King's death. Be prepared for any questions.*

**While reading, look at the quotations:** The quotes on each page are things Martin Luther King, Jr., actually said. Talk about each one.

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ What does "White only" mean?
- ◆ Who was Rosa Parks? Why didn't she give up her seat on the bus?
- ◆ Why didn't Martin Luther King, Jr., stop after his house was bombed?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### STAINED GLASS GELATIN

Ingredients: several boxes of gelatin dessert in different colors, paper plates, plastic knives, cookie cutters (optional)

Make gelatin using the directions on the box. Pour each color into a different pan and chill until firm. When firm, cut gelatin into shapes with plastic knives or cookie cutters. Put the shapes on a paper plate to make a delicious stained glass picture!

### OUT AND ABOUT

Everyone faces *discrimination* at some point. Ask your child to think about a time they were judged because of the way they look or talk or what they believe. Share your own experiences and talk about how you dealt with them.

### "BIG WORD" COLLAGE

Materials: paper, magazines, scissors, glue, pencil or pen

The pictures in this book are *collages*. You can make your own collage! Pick one of Martin's big words from the last page of the book. From a magazine, cut out pictures that make you think of that word.

Glue the pictures onto the paper to make a big word collage.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

*Nobody Owns the Sky*, Reeve Lindbergh (1998), *More Than Anything Else*, Marie Bradby (1995), *If You Lived at the Time of Martin Luther King*, Ellen Levine (1994).



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