



Lapsits for Early Literacy Parent Tip Card
Ages 6-8 years old

***Martin's Big Words:
The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

***written by Doreen Rapaport
illustrated by Bryan Collier; Hyperion books, 2001***



Note to Parents--This biography is an overview of Dr. Martin Luther King's life. It tells his life in Dr. King's own words, movingly in passion and peace. Martin's Big Words is a "Read-Aloud-and-Grow-with-Me" Book.

There are many ideas here to discuss with your children. And as your children get older, the book will contain more and more to consider, share, and further explore.

Sharing with 6 -8 Year Olds: This book can raise a lot of questions for a primary school aged child. Civil rights can be an abstract idea and assassination a disturbing one. Be prepared to spend time with your child talking about this book. Plan for enough time before you introduce it. Then plan for more questions to arise as your child thinks about what he has heard.

Before reading:

Look at the cover. Do you know who this man is?

Title Page. Read the author and illustrator's names. This says: Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How can words be small or big? This book is a "biography" (story of a famous person's life). Do you know what that means? What other biographies have you read?

Dedication and Notes Page. What is a "dedication" (words at the beginning of a book that honor a person admired by the author and illustrator)? Talk about the initials D.R. and B.C. and who they admire. With the **Notes**, if this is your child's first introduction to Dr. King, you may want to summarize these or just read certain sentences. Or, you may want to read them together after reading the book. You may want to talk about them in later, follow-up times.

Read the book together. Enjoy the art work. Read the book with your child. Show your child which words are Dr. King's. Answer any questions.

Ask your child to retell the story. Use the pictures to help. Pause to fill in the gaps for your child.

1. How would it feel to go to an all white or all black school? To drink from separate water fountains or use separate toilets?
2. What prevented young Martin from just getting angry? (He felt good about himself.)
3. As a man, what man's teachings made a difference? (Gandhi's writing.) Who was Mahatma Gandhi? (Nobel Peace Prize winner who led his country to freedom through nonviolent protest in India)
4. Tell more about Rosa Parks. What does being "arrested" mean? Explain the word "boycott" (to refuse to use or buy) and "protest."
5. What does it mean to "stand up for your rights"? What are civil rights? (political, legal, and social rights which give equality and full citizenship with voting rights to all.)
6. Explain the Nobel Peace Prize.
7. How did Dr. King's words live on after his death?

Book Recommendation: My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold (Dragonfly Books), ages 4-9

www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson046.shtml-- Family activities for grades Pre-K-12. Excellent multiple links about **Dr. King**.

Among many awards: Caldecott Honor Book; Coretta Scott King Honor Book ; ALA (American Library Association) Notable Children's Book National Council of Teachers of English, Orbis Pictus Honor Book