

Martin Luther King, Jr.

A Sound Effects Story

Directions:

When the story teller says the following words, then the children should say the given words or make the sounds and motions listed below. Be sure to practice the sounds and motions a few times before telling the story! The children will get better and better at it with practice. They will also be looking at you to cue them with the motions. When you begin to make the motion, they will too, and then they will probably also remember to say the sound that goes with it. You will notice that I had my students repeating a line from the "Fight Song" for the sound effect of the word, "Fight." If your kids don't already know the "Fight Song" from Sing and Spell Vol. 5, (from www.heidisongs.com) then just have them say, "We don't fight!" or think of something else.

Martin Luther King, Jr: (or Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) - "Hooray!" (Punch the air.)

School: "Read, read." (Open hands as if reading a book.)

Drinking Fountains: "Glug, glug, glug, glug!" (Pretend to take a drink.)

Bus: "Beep, beep!" (Pretend to honk a horn.)

Restaurant: "Yum, yum!" (Rub your tummy.)

Park: "Play, play!" (Wave your hands all around.)

Law or Laws: "Yes, sir!" (Give a salute)

Anything that is unfair: (these spots are marked with *)- "That's not fair!" (Shake your finger.)

Fight or Fighting: "F-I-G-H-T! We don't fight!" (Punch when you say the letters, and then shake your finger on "We don't fight!")

Dream: I have a dream! (Touch your heart.)

Story:

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we have a special holiday to help us remember the life of a great man. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, most kids don't have to go to school, lots of people will get to have a day off from work, and in some places there will be pa- rades! This is the story of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 15, 1929, a beautiful little baby boy was born, and he was named after his father! His father's name was Martin Luther King, Sr., and the baby was named Martin Luther King, Jr. His mother and father loved him very much. His father worked as the pastor at their church.

Now Martin Luther King, Jr. was an African American boy, so he had black skin, just like his mom and his dad. Martin was a handsome little boy, and he was smart, just like his parents! But when Martin went to school, he wasn't allowed to go to the same one as the white children in town, just because he had black skin.* So he had to go to a bad school with not enough teachers, too many children, and very old books and desks.* That was the law, even though it was un- fair. Laws are rules that everyone has to obey whether they like it or not- even grown ups!

When Martin Luther King, Jr. was a boy, he would sometimes ride the bus with his parents. But people with black skin were not allowed to sit in the seats at the front of the bus. They had to sit at the back.* That was the law.

When Martin Luther King, Jr. went to a restaurant with his parents, they were not allowed to eat at the same places as people with white skin,* because that was the law. They had to eat at other restaurants.

When Martin Luther King, Jr. went to a park with his mom and dad, they were not allowed to go to the same ones as people with white skin,* because that was the law. They had to play at other parks.

And when Martin Luther King, Jr. was thirsty, he was not allowed to get a drink at the same drinking fountains as people with white skin.* They had to get a drink at other drinking fountains, and these were usually old and broken. That was the law.

Martin Luther King, Jr. knew that these laws were not fair,* and he knew that he didn't do anything to deserve being treated differently. His parents taught him to be proud of who he was, what he looked like, and to be a good person. They also taught him never to fight with his fists, but to try to change things with his brain, instead! When Martin grew up, he decided to become a preacher like his father because he wanted to help people and teach people, just like his dad.

Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted to change the bad laws.. He wanted all children to be able to go to school together, play at the park together, ride the bus together, go to the drinking fountain together, and go to restaurants together. But he wanted people to change things without fighting! So he taught people to talk over their problems rather than fight about them! He convinced people to talk about their differences, and after a while, folks started to really listen! He said, "I have a dream!" Martin wished that people would be treated nicely and fairly, no matter what the color of their skin. That was his special dream!

A lot of people listened to Martin's speech about his wonderful dream. They liked his ideas about getting along and treating everyone fairly. Important people in the government listened too, and they agreed that things needed to change. So they changed the bad laws!

This is why Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very important person. He helped change some very bad and unfair laws. And that's why we now always remember Martin Luther King, Jr., and how he taught everybody to get along, be friends, and treat each other fairly- because that was his dream!

By Heidi Butkus

