



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Live Oak Readalongs are protected by copyright. The components in Live Oak Readalongs may not be reproduced in any form by any means without prior written permission.

ABOUT THE STORY

America's newest national holiday honors a man who dreamed of and worked for peace, quality and freedom for all people. An appreciation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day begins with an understanding of Dr. King's life, times and ideas. This book provides the basis for such an understanding.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Linda Lowery's third book for children. She has also written a number of books for young adults. Ms. Lowery lives in Wisconsin with her son, Kris.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

A resident of Minnesota, Hetty Mitchell has illustrated several books for children including *Raggin': A Story About Scott Joplin* and *Shoes for Everyone: A Story About Jan Matzeliger*.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain that the third Monday of every January is celebrated as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Ask the group what they know of Dr. King and why they feel the country so honors the life of this man, before they read his story, have each student read the author's note preceding it.

READING ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary

Review the following words, names, places and phrases with the group. Locate places on a map.

civil rights	unjust law	peaceful action
violence	Mohandas Gandhi	Atlanta, GA
Montgomery, AL	Washington, DC	Tennessee
Nobel Peace Prize	assassinated	justice
Love	peace	

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

History: *The Bill of Rights*

Discuss the fairness and justice of segregation in light of the Constitution. Read Article XIV, Section 1 and Article XV of the Bill of Rights to the group and ask if segregation is allowed according to the words you have just read. Discuss what it must be like to experience segregation.

Language Arts: *Causes*

Ask the group what they think causes people to impose segregation on others. Have one member of the group look up and read to the others the definition of the word prejudice. Take note of the fact that the word means to prejudge someone or something without benefit of full information about that person or thing. Explain that laws can prevent segregation but they cannot prevent prejudice. Discuss ways in which prejudice can be avoided.

Social Studies: *Change*

Dr. King saw that segregation and prejudice were wrong and devoted himself to their elimination. He realized that such actions are not only harmful to the people discriminated against, regardless of who they might be, but are also damaging to the country as a whole, for they create a divided society. Refer to the author's note in the beginning of the story and review the choices open to Dr. King – violence or peaceful action. Ask the group which he chose and discuss the forms it took (marched, voting drives, boycotts, speeches, etc.). Discuss why such action is more effective than violence.

Tracing the Times

Define desegregation as the exclusion of a group of people from the activities of others, an exclusion which forces the segregated group to become a separate and unequal part of society. Review the acts of segregation mentioned in the book and expand on them by discussing other ways in which black people have been segregated (e.g., voting, housing).

Celebrate

Plan your own celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A good source for programs and support materials (bookmarks, posters, bibliographies, etc.) is:

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for
Nonviolent Social Change
449 Auburn Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30312