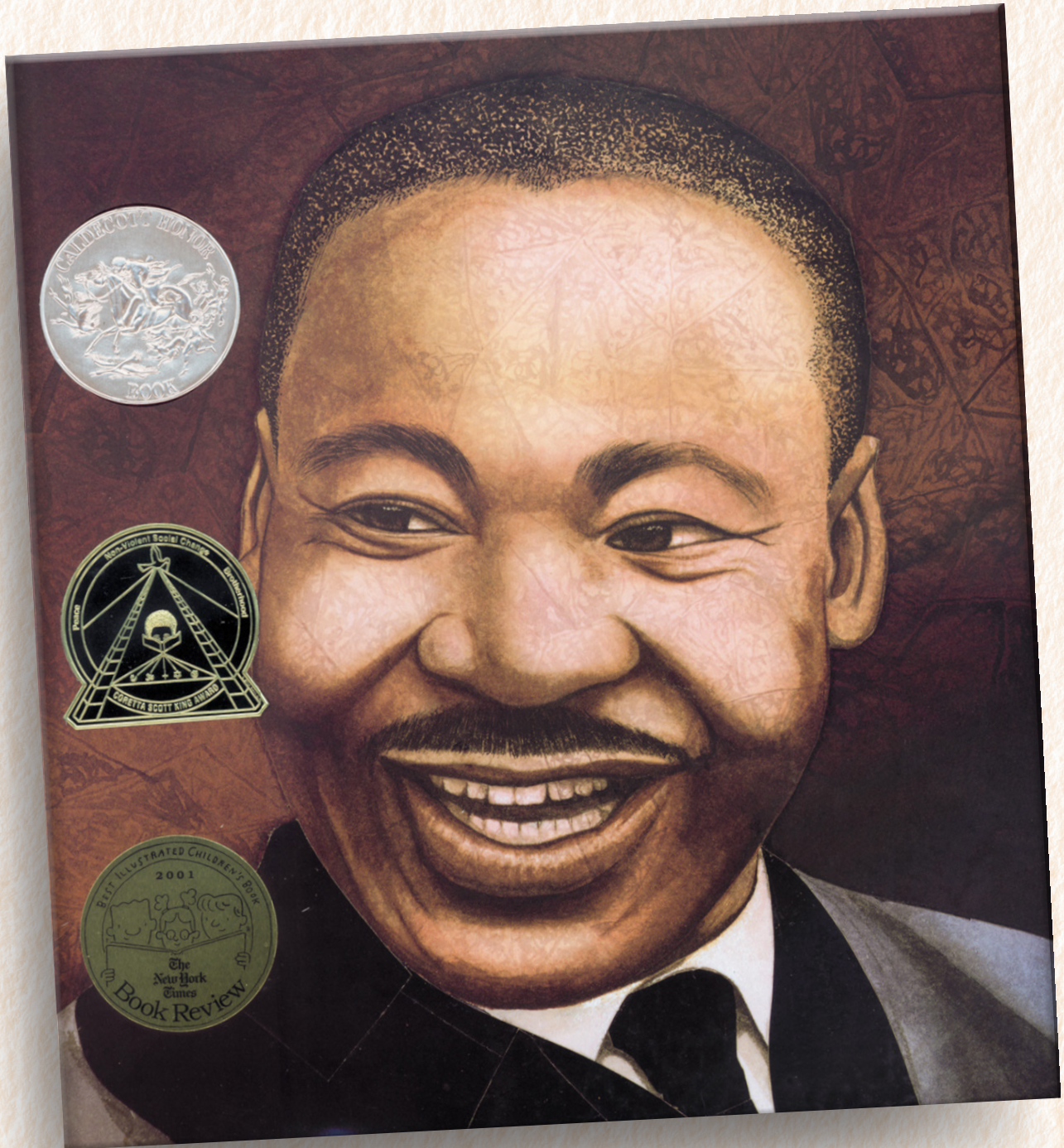


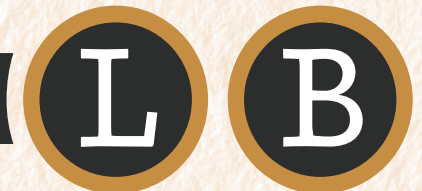
LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Educator's Guide | Ages: 6 & Up



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

LittleBrownLibrary.com



 LBSchool  LittleBrownSchool

Pre-Reading

With a small group, discuss questions about leaders. What is a leader? What does a person do to become a leader? What makes a good leader?

Genre

We study biographies to learn from the lives of others. Why is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an important person to read about? What can we learn from the way he lived his life?

The author inserted many of Dr. King's own words throughout the text. Why do you think this was an important thing to do? Pick one quote and explain the significance.

Theme: Equality

The civil rights movement worked to create equal opportunities for African American people. What are some specific examples in education, employment, and public settings that needed to change for equality? Use the book to provide specific examples that support your answer. Are there still things that need to be changed?

Setting

What are the major settings in the biography of Dr. King? Which illustrations give you a clue that it is in a time different from today? What part of the country did most of Dr. King's work focus on? Why? Show where you found your answer in the text.

Across the Curriculum

Language Arts

Use technology to research another hero or major figure of the civil rights movement and write a biography. Use a style similar to that of Doreen Rappaport—allow your subject to speak for himself or herself whenever possible.

Write a letter to Dr. King about what you learned from him by reading the story.

Vocabulary

Define the following words and draw a picture that will help you remember what they mean: hymn, citizen, courage, protest, rights, movement, peace, freedom, and segregation. Use context clues from the text to find how the words are used in the story.



Social Studies

In small groups, research one of the following events or people from the civil rights movement and create a pamphlet about it. Include who was involved, where the event took place, why it is important, and what effect it had.



- Brown v. Board of Education
- Rosa Parks
- Montgomery bus boycott
- Ruby Bridges
- March on Washington, DC
- Bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama
- Civil Rights Act
- March on Birmingham, Alabama
- Voting Rights Act
- Twenty-Fourth Amendment

Art

Explore the technique of collage and depict another scene or person from the civil rights movement by printing online pictures and adding captions to the images. Present the collage to the class and answer any questions that classmates have about the scene.

Read the illustrator's note before answering the following questions: What does the collage add to the story of Dr. King? Which illustration is your favorite? Why? Why do you think there are no words on the front cover of the book?

What does Bryan Collier mean when he says "windows allow you to look past where you are"? Why is that idea important to the civil rights movement? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Science/Health

Dr. King worked hard to help people earn a living wage—enough money to get their families out of poverty. Research what effects poverty has on children's health and education. Make a poster that includes paragraphs and pictures about what you've learned.

Music

Find recordings of these songs that were sung during the civil rights movement. Write a brief journal entry about why you think they were important. Record one of the songs, play it for your classmates and explain the significance.

- "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"
- "We Shall Overcome"
- "Oh, Freedom"
- "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize"
- "We Shall Not Be Moved"
- "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round"

BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Create a timeline to organize information on any person you study in a biography unit. As a class you might want to brainstorm the topics that are most important to find out about a person. Or you could create a web with information such as the person's name, early years, major accomplishments, education, sports and hobbies, etc.

Discussion Questions or Writing Prompts

If you are using the questions below as writing prompts, be sure that students include the following: an introduction, multiple reasons that support the main idea or opinion, and a concluding statement.

1. Why do you think the Doreen Rappaport chose Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to write about? Whom would you write about? Why?
2. What are the most important things that you learned about this person in the text? What will you remember about this individual a year from now? Five years from now?
3. Which biography is your favorite? Why? Explain your answer by using specific examples from your favorite text.

Research Assignment

Research the life of someone you think is important to know about. Write a newspaper article about that person and include an introduction, at least five important facts, and a conclusion. Share your article with a classmate and discuss why your selected person is important.

How do people find information to create biographies? Describe the process that the author uses to write each story. Use online sources and related informational texts to research the topic.

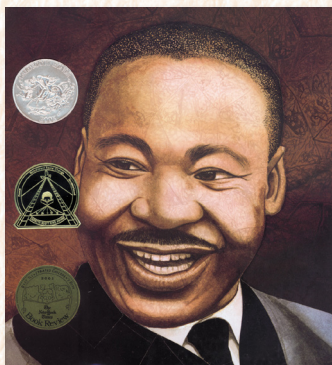
Great research is best done with primary sources rather than secondary ones. Primary sources are actual letters, notes, diaries, pictures, and other firsthand documentation of a person's life. As you research a famous person for a biography, be sure to list your sources and categorize them as primary or secondary.

Music

Research the type of music that was popular during your subject's life. What do you notice about the music's lyrics, instruments, beats and rhythms, and style? Create and record a song that you believe would have been popular during that time period.

Art

Create a piece of sculpture or collage that best represents the person you are studying. Use images that show important aspects of their life. Present your finished project to the class and use it to tell the story. Be sure to answer any questions that classmates ask about your work at the end of the presentation.



978-0-78680-714-7 HC
\$17.99 (\$18.99 CAD)
978-1-42310-635-7 PB
Accelerated Reader: 3.4

About the book

This picture book biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., brings his life and the profound nature of his message to young children through his own words. Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. Doreen Rappaport uses quotes from some of his most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way. Bryan

Collier's stunning collage art combines watercolor paintings with vibrant patterns and textures. A timeline and a list of additional books and websites help make this a standout biography of Dr. King.

Praise for the book

- ★ "A stunning, reverent tribute." —*School Library Journal*
- ★ "Powerful art and pulsing words." —*Booklist*

- Caldecott Honor Book
- Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards
- 2001 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Title for Children and Teens
- IRA/CBC Children's Choice
- Jane Addams Book Award Honor Book
- New York Times Best Illustrated Book
- Orbis Pictus Award Honor Book (NCTE)
- Riverbank Review Children's Books of Distinction Award
- School Library Journal Best Book

About the Author and Illustrator



Doreen Rappaport has written numerous award-winning books for children, including *Freedom Ship* and *The School Is Not White* (both illustrated by Curtis James); *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, a Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Honor Book; and *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. She lives and writes in upstate New York. Find her at doreenrappaport.com.



Bryan Collier has created art for many award-winning children's books, including his master achievements *Rosa*; the Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*; and *Freedom River*.

This educator guide was prepared by Dawn Jacobs, education consultant, and Tracie Vaughn Kleman, award-winning children's book author and literacy specialist.

Doreen Rappaport's BIG WORDS SERIES



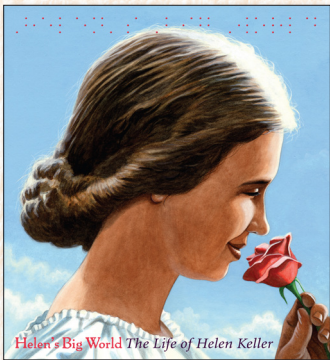
Wilma's Way Home
The Life of Wilma Mankiller
Illustrated by Linda Kukuk
978-1-484-74718-6 hc
978-1-368-02740-3 e-book



Frederick's Journey
The Life of Frederick Douglass
Illustrated by London Ladd
978-1-423-11438-3 hc
978-1-484-74959-3 pb



To Dare Mighty Things
The Life of Theodore Roosevelt
Illustrated by C. F. Payne
978-1-423-12488-7 hc



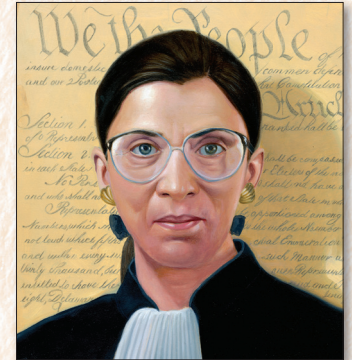
Helen's Big World
The Life of Helen Keller
Illustrated by Matt Tavares
978-0-786-80890-8 hc
978-1-484-74960-9 pb



Jack's Path of Courage
The Life of John F. Kennedy
Illustrated by Matt Tavares
978-1-423-12272-2 hc
978-1-484-74961-6 pb



Eleanor, Quiet No More
The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt
Illustrated by Gary Kelley
978-0-786-85141-6 hc



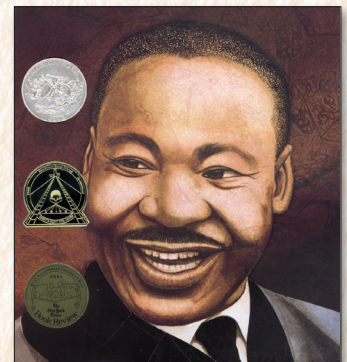
Ruth Objects
The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Illustrated by Eric Velasquez
978-1-484-74717-9 hc



Abe's Honest Words
The Life of Abraham Lincoln
Illustrated by Kadir Nelson
978-1-423-10408-7 hc
978-1-484-74958-6 pb



John's Secret Dreams
The Life of John Lennon
Illustrated by Bryan Collier
978-1-484-74962-3 pb



Martin's Big Words
The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Illustrated by Bryan Collier
978-0-786-80714-7 hc
978-1-423-10635-7 pb