



# Readers' Theater

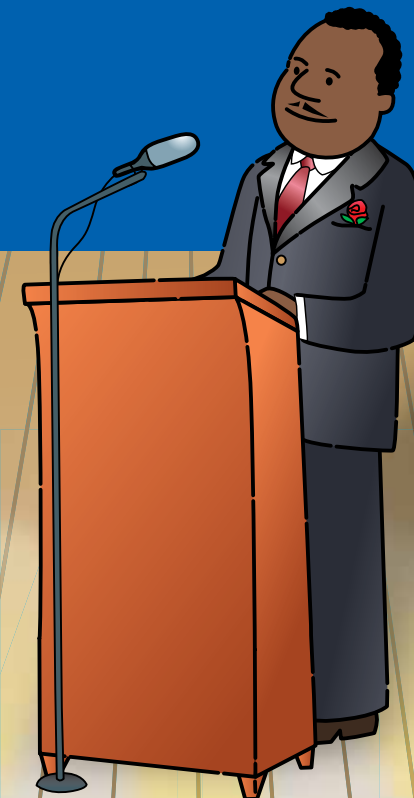


# Readers' Theater

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## Martin Luther King, Jr.



GRL: K  
DRA: 20

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Each reader's part is highlighted in color.

List of Characters  
(in order of appearance)

Group 1:	Green
Group 2:	Blue
Dr. King:	Orange
Narrator 1:	Red
Girls:	Purple
Boys:	Light Blue
All:	Black



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**Boys:** Martin Luther King showed America that it could be a better place.

**Girls:** Because of his brave words and work, America changed.

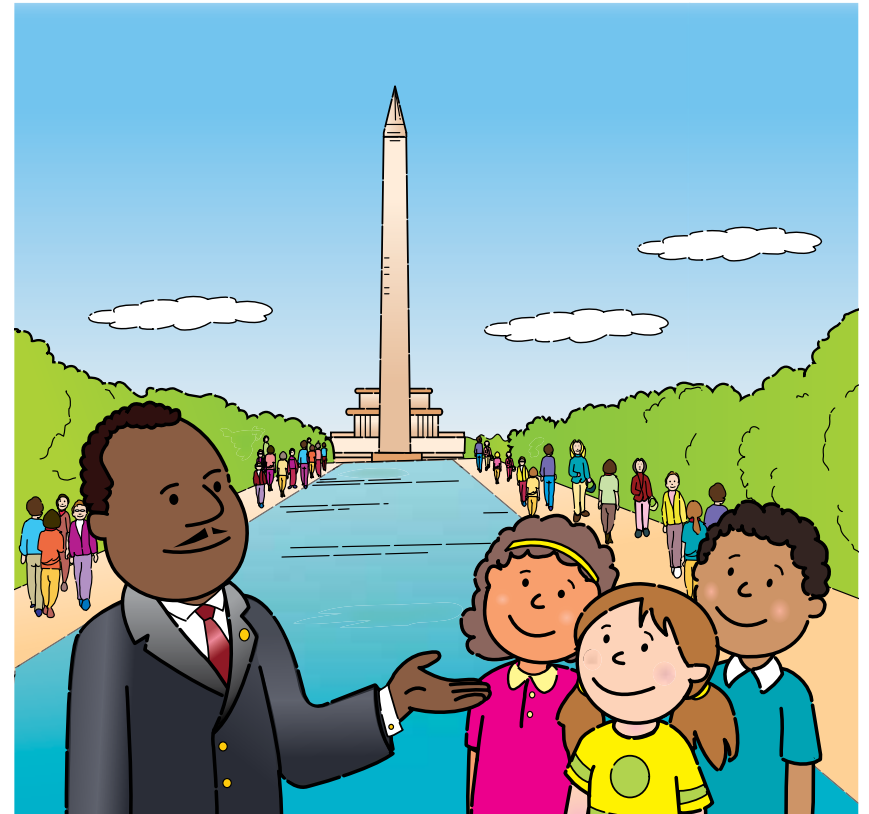
**All:** It is still changing! Let freedom ring!



# Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Group 1:** The year is 1963. Look at all the people walking in Washington, D.C.! Where is everyone going?

**Group 2:** There are more than 200,000 people. They are coming to hear a great man talk. Look! Here he comes now!

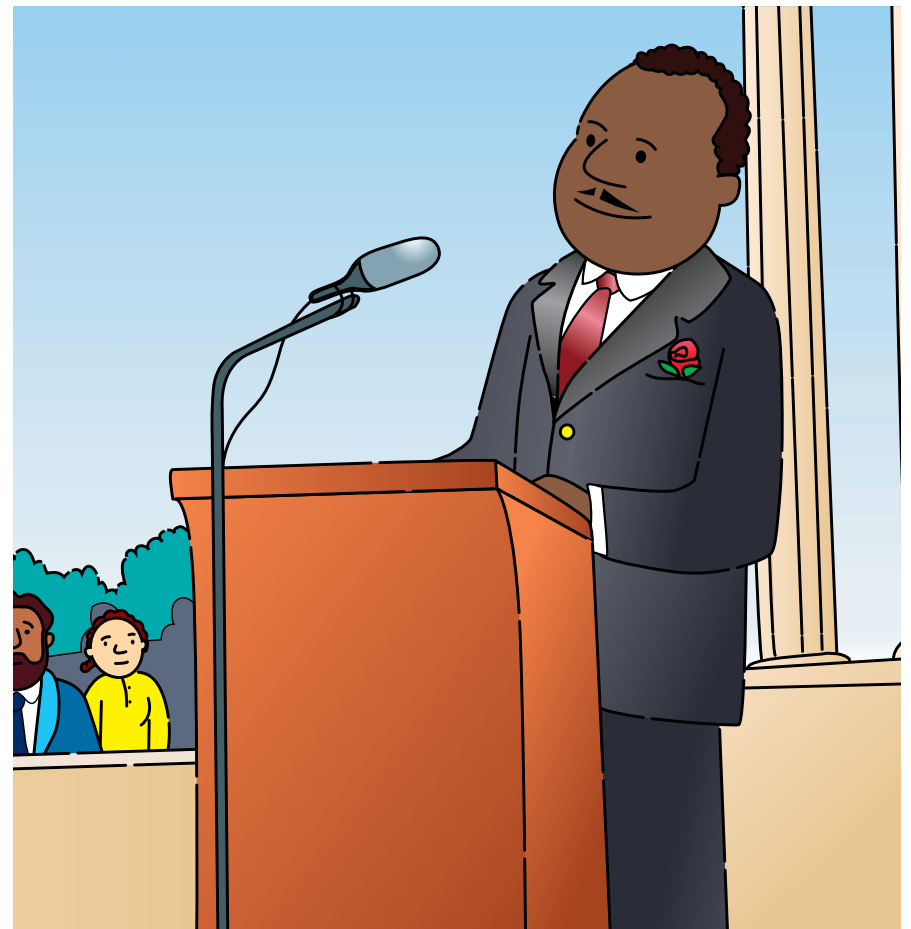


**Dr. King:** My name is Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior. I am a preacher from Alabama. I believe all people should be treated the same. It should not matter what they look like. It should not matter where they are from.

**Narrator:** After the Civil War, the slaves were free. But even many years later, African-Americans were still not treated well.



**Dr. King:** I have a dream. One day this nation will be a place where all people are equal! One day black people and white people will sit together at the same table. I have a dream. Let freedom ring!

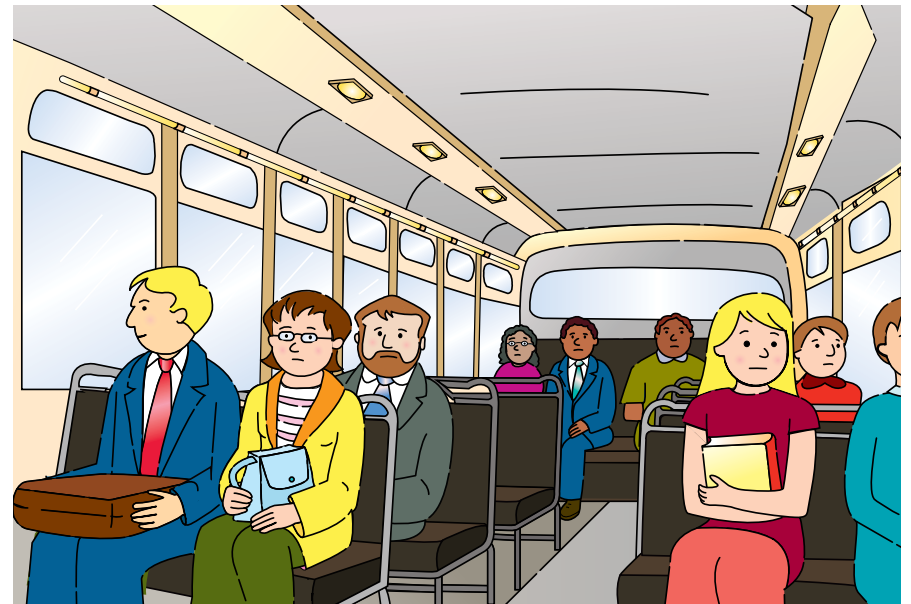


**Boys:** So, now we know what Martin Luther King did. But why is everyone here in Washington?

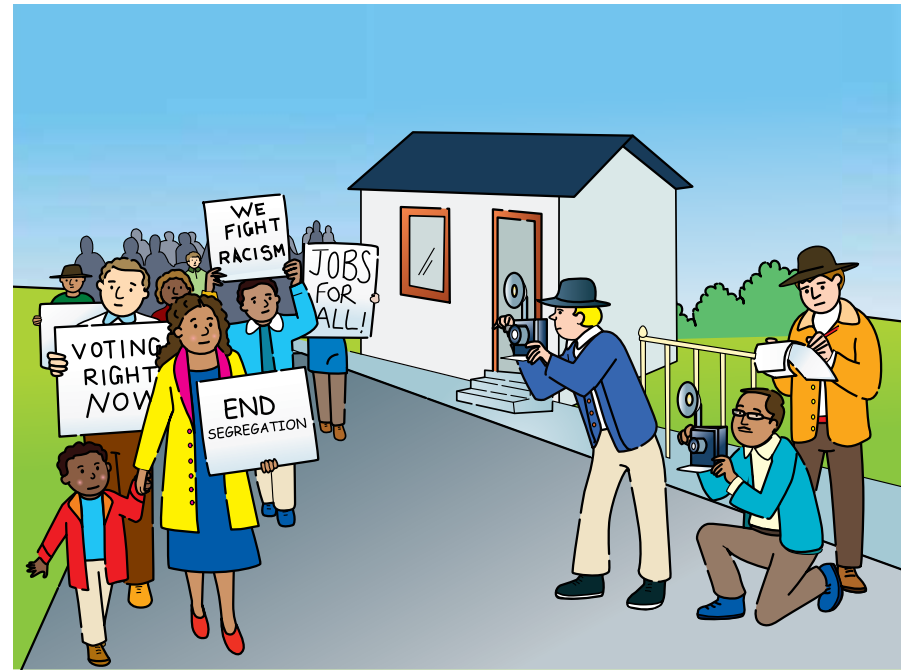
**Girls:** They have come to hear Martin Luther King give an important speech. Shhh! He is starting to speak. Let's listen.



**Girls:** In many places, African-Americans and whites could not use the same bathrooms. Blacks and whites had to drink from different water fountains. And African-Americans had to sit in the back of the bus.



**Boys:** Then, in 1955, a lady named Rosa Parks got on a bus and sat right down. When the bus driver told her to change seats, she said, “No.” The police took her to jail.



**Girls:** Newspapers and television news shows came to take pictures. Americans learned what Martin Luther King was doing.

**Dr. King:** I believe all Americans should be free. That is what our country stands for. Everyone has a right to vote. If laws stop them, the laws must change.

**Narrator:** Many people listened to Martin Luther King. He showed them new ways to change things. Elections were not fair. Many black people did not vote. Dr. King wanted to show others that this was not right. He led a group on a long walk across Alabama.

**Boys:** The road was 50 miles long! The people walked 12 miles each day. They slept in fields.



**Girls:** What did you do about it, Dr. King?

**Dr. King:** I told many people that what happened to her was not fair. Then, for more than a year, African-Americans did not ride buses in her town. The buses lost money! At last, the Supreme Court changed the law. African-American people could choose their seats on buses.

**Girls:** Wow! That means people can change history.

**Dr. King:** That's right! I was never afraid to say what I believe! I believe that everyone is free: black or white, rich or poor, young or old.

**Narrator:** It was a time of change in America. African-Americans wanted better jobs. They wanted to vote. They wanted good schools.

**Boys:** Dr. King was a wise leader. He worked to help African-Americans get what they wanted.

**Girls:** Some people were angry and wanted to fight. Dr. King talked to them.

**Dr. King:** I think it is wrong to hurt people. We can change things in other ways. If you always do what is right and fair, people will see. Then they will change, too.

