

Reading Comprehension Tasks

This week your comprehension tasks are based on Martin Luther King's Speech. Remember to read the text and questions carefully and don't forget to refer back to the text to help you answer the questions.

Martin Luther King's Speech

Have you ever felt that something is not fair? Did you try to change things?

In America, about fifty years ago, there lived a courageous and clever man called Martin Luther King Jr. He saw that things were very **unjust** for black Americans like himself. Often, they were treated unfairly. Sometimes they were made to use different toilets, theatres, restaurants, swimming pools, schools and even seats on buses! Martin Luther King knew this was not fair. He decided to try to change things for the better. So, he stood up and spoke up for black American rights!

On August 28th 1963, about 250,000 people **gathered** to march together in Washington and listen to Martin Luther King speak. Martin Luther King was a gifted speaker. On that day, he made a **speech** which lots of people still remember today. It helped to change **attitudes** in America and it is now very famous!

The Speech: 'I Have a Dream'

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest **demonstration** for freedom in the history of our **nation**. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we shall make the **pledge** that we shall always march **ahead**. We cannot turn back. And so even though we face the **difficulties** of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. I have a dream that one day my four little children will live in a **nation** where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the **content** of their **characters**. I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today! And if America is to become a great **nation** this must come true! From every mountainside let freedom ring! Free At last! Free At Last! Thank God **Almighty** we are free at last!

Monday - Task 1

Martin Luther King's Speech – Follow-Up Work

Were Black Americans treated fairly at the time? Why or why not?

When did Martin Luther King give his speech 'I Have a Dream'?

Why do you think lots of people came to listen to Martin Luther King's Speech?

Why do you think people remember the speech today?

What word or phrase in the speech tells you that Martin Luther King was not going to give up?

How do you think Martin Luther King said "I have a dream"?

Wednesday - Task 2

Martin Luther King's Speech – Vocab 1

Write down the meanings of these words which were in purple in the text. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

unjust _____

gathered _____

speech _____

attitudes _____

demonstration _____

pledge _____

ahead _____

difficulties _____

nation _____

judged _____

content _____

characters _____

almighty _____

Thursday - Task 3

Martin Luther King's Speech – Vocab 2

Choose six of the highlighted words in the text and write a sentence including each word so that its meaning is really clear.

E.g. It was *unjust* to treat the children differently.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____
