

A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King

Activity Card #1	Literacy Development Category Lots of Links: Re-enacting events
Suggested Activity Order <i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i> introduces the background for this national holiday to our students. Children learn about the Reverend King and what his goals were. In this activity, we use role-play to help children understand the word and concept of prejudice . <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Re-read the page in the book that discusses what African American people were not allowed to do.2. Ask the children if they can recall a time when someone would not let them do what they wanted. Ask them how it felt.3. Next, ask the children to show how our faces look when someone hurts our feelings. Then, have them demonstrate how our bodies slump when someone hurts our feelings.4. Tell the children that all of them will pretend to be African Americans living before Dr. King worked for change.5. Have the children imagine they have seen a water fountain and are walking towards it. Say, "STOP! You cannot drink from that fountain. Your skin is not the right color." Coach them to show their sad faces and their sad bodies.6. Tell the children that all of them will pretend to be African Americans living after Dr. King worked for change.7. Have the children again imagine they have seen a water fountain and are walking towards it. Say, "Hi! Of course you can drink from that fountain. We like everyone, no matter the color of their skin." Coach the children to show their happy faces and bodies.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i> book

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Activity Card #2	Literacy Development Category Language Development
Suggested Activity Order <i>In today's lesson, children will use a syntactic structure that was an important part of King's "I Have A Dream" speech.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Show the coloring page picture of Dr. King.2. Tell the children that you are going to read some of the words that Martin Luther King said in one of his speeches, then read the lines from the "I have a dream" speech.3. Ask children what they think Dr. King hoped for.4. Next, brainstorm some good things we hope will happen in the world. The children may need some support here, so be prepared to help them out.5. Help the children re-state their hopes into the following language structure "I have a dream that..."	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Coloring page picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. Downloadable from http://library.thinkquest.org/10320/mking.htm❑ Excerpts from "I have a dream" speech found at the end of this file.

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Activity Card #3	Literacy Development Category: Acts of Writing
Suggested Activity Order <p><i>Today's lesson builds upon the content of Activity #2. We will be recording the children's "I have a dream" statements so that these can be made into a class book.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hold up the book <u><i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i></u>. Remind the children that we have been talking about Dr. King this week.2. Explain that today we are going to write down the "I have a dream" statements we talked about yesterday.3. On separate sheets of paper, write the children's dream statements in the following manner: I have a dream that people will not push each other when they are in line. (David)4. When all the children who want to contribute a statement have done so, read each page back to the children, running your fingers under the words as you read them.5. Ask each contributor to illustrate his or her page. When they have done so, assemble the pages into a class book. You can use the downloaded coloring page as the cover. Simply write below the picture, "Our Class Has a Dream, Too".	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u><i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i></u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Paper to record children's words

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Activity Card #4	Literacy Development Category: Artist's Craft
Suggested Activity Order <i>Caldecott Honor-Award winning illustrator J. Brian Pinkney is known for his scratchboard illustrations. Today's lesson will serve to acquaint children with a scratchboard-like technique</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Remind children that an illustrator is the person who creates the pictures for a book. Show them the cover of <u><i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i></u>. Point to Marzollo's name and say she is the woman who wrote this book. Then, point to Pinkney's name and explain that he is the man who made the pictures.2. Explain that different artists like to use different types of art materials. Brian Pinkney likes to use something we call scratchboard.3. Show the pictures from Diana Lee's web page, reading, explaining what she has done, and reminding the children that Brian Pinkney uses these same techniques.4. Help the children get a sense of what the scratchboard technique is like by having them make a rainbow of crayon colors on their papers. When they are finished, collect the papers.5. Next, pour some using black tempera paint into a large bowl and add a few drops of liquid soap. The soap helps the tempera adhere to the crayon-covered paper. Use inexpensive foam brushes to paint the children's crayon-covered papers. NOTE: These need to dry overnight.6. Have the children use the coins you supply to scrape away the black crayon to show what is underneath.7. Compliment the children on being artists just like Brian Pinkney.8. Display the children's pictures in your classroom.	Materials Needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> <u><i>Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King</i></u> book<input type="checkbox"/> Downloaded information on scratchboard http://www.dianalee.com/beginners_scratchboard.htm<input type="checkbox"/> Crayons, paper, black tempera paint, liquid soap

I Have A Dream

(excerpts from King's famous speech)



I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama ... will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.