



Family Resiliency Reading Guide

“I HAVE A DREAM”

BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

After reading “I Have a Dream” with your child, use this reading guide to continue the conversation around resiliency at home. In this guide, you will find a description of how this speech relates to resiliency characteristics, literacy tips and sample conversation starters for you and your child.

SYNOPSIS

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous speech, “I Have a Dream,” during the March on Washington. In this speech, Dr. King outlines the injustices present in America at that time and encourages his audience to hold the country accountable to its founding promises of freedom, justice and equality. Dr. King asserted that both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence promise the same rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all people in the United States. His famous words directly confront the gap between the premise of freedom the United States was built upon and the reality African Americans were living at the time.

LESSONS IN RESILIENCY

- ▶ Dr. King agreed with the words of the Declaration of Independence that all people were created equal and deserved to be treated fairly. Dr. King said, “I have a dream that my four little 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.” This is one of the most powerful and well-known quotes in American history. His **honest** words fueled the Civil Rights Movement that vastly expanded civil liberties for all Americans.
- ▶ Dr. King did not shy away from the harsh truth of segregation in America, even though speaking out presented significant risks and dangers. He acknowledged the failures of society in denying the full rights of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence to African Americans. This **honest** speech was both bold and hopeful as Dr. King presented a vision for America’s future – one where all people had equal opportunities.

LITERACY TIP

Engage in conversation with your child about what he or she is reading. Asking open-ended questions encourages critical thinking and comprehension. An example of an open-ended question is, “How do great speeches and books change the trajectory of people’s lives?”

RESILIENCY CHARACTERISTICS



Honesty
Telling the truth.

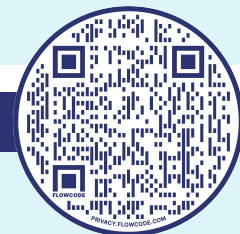
RESILIENCY CONVERSATION STARTERS:



Dr. King presented the vision of the freedoms promised by America’s Founding Fathers. He knew achieving the goal of equality for all Americans would be incredibly difficult and require a deep commitment. Dr. King never tried to hide the personal risks and dangers; he was open and **honest** about the hardships both he and other Civil Rights leaders would endure. Talk with your child about how Dr. King’s dream was rooted in **honesty** and about the state of the nation at that time.



Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech voiced the struggles faced by millions of people and spoke truthfully about life in the United States during the Civil Rights Movement. Discuss with your child how sometimes being **honest** is extremely difficult and comes with personal costs. Share examples of how positive change only occurs when courageous individuals are **honest** and stand up for what is right.



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