

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Hero and dad

Can you imagine what it would have been like to have Martin Luther King, Jr., as your father?

In fact, Dr. King was a father. He and his wife Coretta had four children. They had two sons, Martin Luther III and Dexter, and two daughters, Yolanda and Bernice.

When the King children were growing up in Atlanta in the 1950s and 1960s, there was a great deal of discrimination against African Americans. Some white people did not believe that African Americans should be treated the same as whites. They believed, for example, that African Americans should have separate schools and hospitals and swimming pools.

The King children watched as their father fought laws that made this sort of segregation legal. The King kids were among the first African-American children to go to school with white children. They traveled with their parents to meetings where thousands of people got together to protest racism. Every year, their father became more famous.

But there were some terrifying moments. Some people did not want segregation to end. Twice the King family's home was bombed. Both times the family escaped unharmed, but the children knew that their father's peaceful work put him—and them—in danger.

In 1968 Dr. King was assassinated by a man named James Earl Ray. The oldest of the King children, Yolanda, was 13. The youngest, Bernice, was only 5. All of them walked alongside their mother at their father's funeral.

Today, all of Dr. King's children are carrying on their father's work. Yolanda is an actress and filmmaker who teaches children about the cruelty of racism. Martin Luther III is the president of a civil-rights group. Dexter is the president of the King Center, an organization set up in honor of his father. Bernice, like her father, is a minister at a Baptist Church.

In 1963 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."

Today, those four children are grown up. And they are each working to bring their father's dream closer to reality.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read “Martin Luther King, Jr.” Then fill in the circle next to the best answer for each question. Use your answers to finish the sentence below.

1. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
  - A. Some thought that African Americans should go to different schools.
  - B. African Americans were discriminated against in the 1950s and 1960s.
  - C. Dr. King was African American.
  - D. Dr. King had four children.
2. The article is a work of
  - E. nonfiction.
  - F. fiction.
  - G. historical fiction.
3. What do you think the word *segregation* means in paragraph four?
  - H. going to school with white children
  - I. keeping people or groups apart
  - J. going to the hospital
4. The period in history that Dr. King was involved with is called
  - K. the American Revolution.
  - L. the Civil Rights movement.
  - M. the Great Depression.
  - N. the Civil War.
5. Which of the following is false?
  - O. Dr. King wanted blacks and whites to be treated equally.
  - P. Dr. King fought peacefully to end discrimination.
  - Q. Dr. King bombed his own home as a protest.
  - R. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968.
6. Why was the King family threatened?
  - S. because Dr. King was a minister
  - T. because they lived in Atlanta
  - U. because the King children met important people
  - V. because some people didn't want segregation to end
7. From reading this article, what do you know about Dr. King's kids?
  - W. They don't care about Dr. King's work.
  - X. They all still live in Atlanta.
  - Y. They are all involved in continuing their father's work.
  - Z. They all perform in schools.

**Bonus:** Match the number under each line with the questions you just answered. Write the letter of your answer to that question on the line. You will finish the sentence below.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for the words**

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
3      1    2    4    3    2    6    2    ...”

# ANSWERS

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** (page 19)

1. B 2. E 3. I 4. L 5. Q 6. V 7. Y

**Bonus:** "I believe..."