

All About Martin Luther King Jr. Common Core Literacy Scaffolding Questions

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Note to teachers and parents: The standards listed here are taken from the Common Core Standards: *Grades 6-12, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects* from the subset standards for grades 6-8. The standards listed here are 6-8.1-6.8-10. These Common Core Standards can be viewed in greater detail at this website:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/>

Some states have decided not to adopt the Common Core standards, but the new state standards are uniformly similar. Teachers who choose to use these questions in a state that has not adopted Common Core standards are encouraged to apply their own state standards to these questions. Teachers who choose to use these questions for grades other than 6-8 can find all of the Common Core standards at: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>.

Teachers, please note that these questions are designed only to provide a very basic literacy scaffold and to provide examples. There is plenty of room for you to add your creativity and use your expertise to develop “why” questions and to help students make connections to other texts.

The questions below should be answered using a complete sentence and with textual evidence from the reading. The questions for the Preface are answered as examples.

Preface

1. Give at least one example of a legacy that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be remembered for.

Sample Answer: Martin Luther King Jr. “is remembered for his leadership in the Civil Rights struggles during the 1950s and 1960s.”

2. What is one example of an experience that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had as a youth that likely affected him later in his life?

Sample Answer: As a youth, Martin Luther King “experienced many forms of racism and segregation” but this, along with his father’s guidance, helped “shaped young Martin’s life in powerful ways.”

Chapter One

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5

1. What was significant about Martin Luther King Jr.'s name change at age five?
2. What was Martin Luther King Jr.'s experience with his father and mother's church like?
3. Give one example of how legal segregation or racist attitudes of that era affected young Martin.

Chapter Two

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4

1. Choose one of the schools that Martin Luther King Jr. attended, and use his achievements there to give evidence of the kind of student he was.
2. Jesus, Henry David Thoreau, and Mohandas Gandhi all influenced Martin Luther King Jr.'s thinking. What core idea united the teachings of these three men? Give textual evidence about just one of them in your answer.
3. Give one detail about Coretta Scott.

Chapter Three

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4.

1. What implication did the Linda Brown case in Kansas have for American public schools?
2. Analyze the picture [Insert 21] of Rosa Parks. How does this demonstrate non-violent resistance? Textual evidence is not necessary for this question, but please make a specific reference to the picture.
3. What is an example of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership during or after the Montgomery bus boycott?

Chapter Four

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5

1. Which change that occurred in 1960 do you think was most impactful for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?
2. In regard to the Civil Rights Movement, what was significant about John F. Kennedy's election?
3. What was one of the tactics of the Freedom Riders?

Chapter Five

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3

1. In 1963, give one example that indicates what life was like for the African-American residents of Montgomery Alabama.
2. How did “Bull” Connor and the police react to the resistance actions of Alabama’s African Americans?
3. What is one way that the police tactics towards non-violent protestors, including the jailing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., affected the Movement?

Chapter Six

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

1. What was the purpose of the August 28, 1963 rally in Washington, D.C.?
2. Describe one aspect of Dr. Martin Luther King’s speech that made it so powerful.
3. How did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Movement leaders decide to honor both the victims of the Birmingham church bombing and the recently assassinated president, John F. Kennedy?

Chapter Seven

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3

1. What was one important legal change that the 1964 Civil Rights Bill brought to the United States?
2. In 1964, the Civil Rights Bill passed and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize, but what is one piece of evidence that indicates that there was still much work to be done to achieve equality?
3. What is a difference between the philosophy of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

Chapter Eight

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

1. What is one way that the political authorities in Alabama tried to prevent African Americans from gaining equality?
2. President Johnson supported the Civil Rights Movement; give one example of his supportive actions.
3. What did the economic situation in Chicago indicate about the effects of poverty in African-American communities?

Chapter Nine

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6

1. How did the controversy over the Vietnam War affect the Civil Rights Movement?

2. Why did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shift the focus from attaining legal civil rights to addressing poverty?
3. What does the way in which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was laid to rest indicate about the impact of his life and teaching?

Text Analysis Questions

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

Essay: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. found inspiration in the words of Henry David Thoreau and of Jesus. Please read the passages below from both *Civil Disobedience* and the *Book of Matthew*. Make a connection between these two excerpts and some aspect of Dr. Martin Luther King's life and words that you have learned about after reading *All About Martin Luther King*. Include a clear thesis, at least one piece of textual evidence from the book, and quote from both of the excerpts below in your answer.

All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable...when a sixth of the population of a nation which has undertaken to be the refuge of liberty are slaves...I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize.

-Henry David Thoreau, excerpted from *Civil Disobedience*, 1849

You have heard that it was said 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

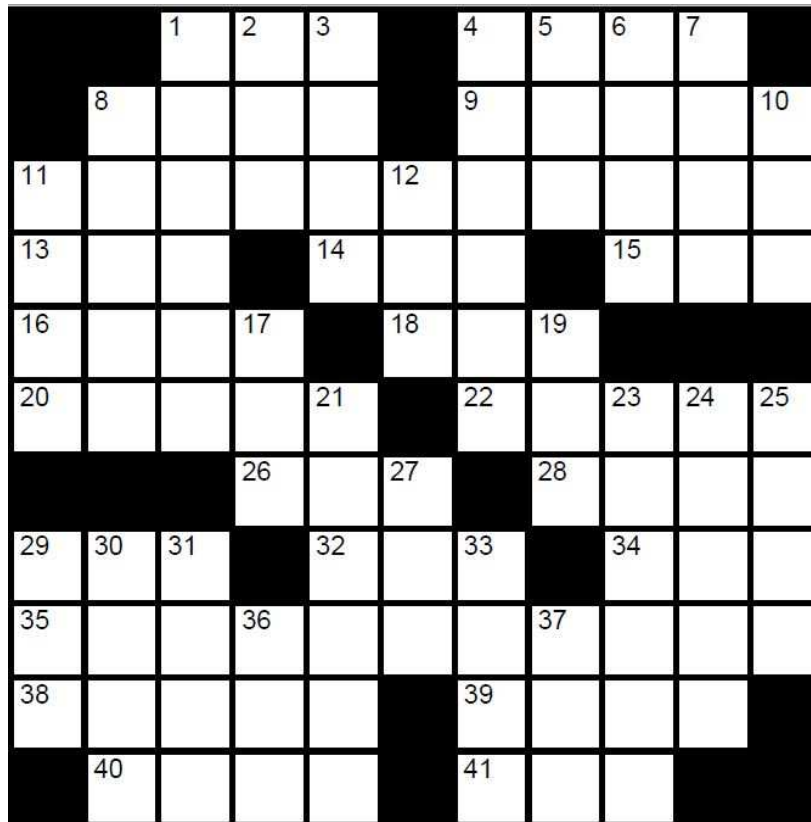
-Jesus, *Book of Matthew*, chapter five, verses 43-45



ATLANTA
BAPTIST
BOYCOTT
CIVIL RIGHTS
CORETTA
DISCRIMINATION
GEORGIA
INTEGRATION

JFK
JIM CROW
KING
LBJ
LUTHER
MALCOLM X
MARTIN
MOREHOUSE

NOBEL
NONVIOLENT
PROTEST
ROSA PARKS
SEGREGATION
SEMINARY
SIT-IN
SOUTH



Across

- 1. Give a massage to
- 4. Unskilled worker
- 8. Restaurant food list
- 9. One more time
- 11. Cause championed by MLK, Jr. (2 wds.)
- 13. Bullfight cheer
- 14. Future blossom on a flower
- 15. Patriotic chant (Inits.)
- 16. Wal-___
- 18. Sticky stuff to chew on
- 20. Bit of buffoonery
- 22. Linguini or spaghetti, e.g.
- 26. Cooking spray brand
- 28. Catch sight of
- 29. Govt. org. that regulates radio and TV (Inits.)
- 32. Prefix for west or night
- 34. To think a lot of yourself
- 35. Memorable words from MLK, Jr. (4 wds.)
- 38. "Better late than ___"
- 39. Lends a hand to
- 40. Cheese on a Greek salad
- 41. Football field measurements (Abbr.)

Down

- 1. Return, as to a past way
- 2. Beginning for cycle or corn
- 3. Lamp light
- 4. Settled a debt (2 wds)
- 5. "Which came first?" choice
- 6. Honolulu's island
- 7. They're picked by fault-finders
- 8. Northern Italian city
- 10. Govt. intelligence org. (Inits.)
- 11. Unconscious state
- 12. Floor covering
- 17. Thanks to a waiter
- 19. ___ and pas
- 21. Smartphone picture taker
- 23. Puts the pedal to the metal
- 24. Old Roman wraps
- 25. Thing smaller than a molecule
- 27. "Mamma ___!"
- 29. Shark's flipper
- 30. Fancy restaurant cook
- 31. Underground chamber
- 33. June 6, 1944
- 36. Doc at the zoo
- 37. Get ___ of

