

# MLK Read for Peace Activity Guide

## 3rd and 4th Grade

1. **Introduce yourself** (if you are an AmeriCorps member, make sure to say so!)
2. **Explain the agenda**
  - a. “While I’m here, we’re going to talk about an important man named Martin Luther King Jr. We’re also going to read a book together, then do a fun activity!”
3. **Brief discussion of MLK**
  - a. Begin by asking the class what they know about MLK, to get a basic understanding of their understanding
  - b. Next, give your brief explanation of MLK
    - i. Martin Luther King Jr. is a very important figure in history. Does anyone know anything about MLK?
    - ii. MLK was born in January 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia
    - iii. At the time Martin was born, people did not believe that people of different races were equal. Because Martin was black, he was not allowed to do a lot of things with white children. He had to go to a different school, different pool, enter through different doors, and drink from different water fountains. This was not fair.
    - iv. As he grew older, Martin dedicated his life to making the country a more fair place. He was dedicated to making sure people of different races were treated the same. This is called racial equality
    - v. He made speeches, held marches, and led peaceful protests with thousands of people across the country, dedicated to his and others’ belief that all people - regardless of skin color - are created and should be treated equally.
    - vi. Not everyone agreed with Dr. King, but enough people did that major changes were made across the country.
    - vii. Dr. King was murdered for his beliefs - but his work continues to inspire and motivate people to work towards equality
4. **Read the selected book**
  - a. MLK Book
    - i. What was one thing you learned about MLK’s life?
    - ii. What is one thing you can do in your life to engage in inclusive activities and/or behavior?
  - b. Kamala and Maya book
    - i. What was Kamala and Maya’s big idea? (answer: to create a playground in their courtyard)

- ii. What were some ways they worked to make that idea happen? (answer: letter writing, asking for help from neighbors, working together)
- iii. “No one could do everything. But everyone could do something.” What does this quote mean?
- iv. There are a lot of ways to make the world a better place, but sometimes it seems like a lot of work for one person to do! One person can’t do everything, but they can do something

**5. Have discussion about connection between book and MLK**

- a. Dr. King had big dreams to make major changes across the country. Kamala and Maya also had big dreams to make changes right in their local community. You have the power to dream big or locally to make changes in your community and do the right thing
- b. Answer any questions and take comments

**6. Activity**

- a. The Teacher will have pre selected an activity. Please use all materials provided by MTCC to facilitate that activity. Any craft supplies will be provided by the teacher/classroom/school

**7. Debrief activity**

- a. Have the students share their artwork/poems with the rest of the class
  - i. Have other students share what they like about another student's artwork/poem
- b. Web of connection - have the students share their thoughts on the activity
  - i. Point out that they are all connected to each other - what can we take away from that idea? How can we apply it to people who look different or live in a different place from us?