

MLK Read for Peace Activity Guide

5th 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 selected book**
 - a. 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
- b. 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?

5. 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

6. 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?