

Martin Luther King Jr. Poem of Remembrance

January 15 is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday! Use this printable poem to help you celebrate Dr. King with your class.

For younger students:

- Copy the poem onto chart paper and read it aloud to your class.
- Explain that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an important leader who wanted all people to be treated fairly and equally. Then read the poem again, stopping after every two lines to have students repeat them back to you.
- Print out the poem for students. Encourage them to color the page and take it home.

For older students:

- Explain that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an important civil rights leader in our country. He taught about fairness, equality, and justice for all people. Lead a discussion about what it means to treat people with fairness, equality, and justice.
- Copy the poem onto chart paper and lead your class in a choral reading.
- Print out the poem for each student. Divide the class into two groups and have each group alternate reading the lines aloud.
- Divide students into groups of two and give a copy of the poem to each pair. Have them take turns reading the poem aloud to each other. Then ask them to make a list of things in the poem that Dr. King wanted to achieve (e.g., stand united together, live as friends in peace, see the beauty of equality and showing love instead of hate).
- Write the poem on chart paper and underline the following words: honored, united, strive, peace, equality, overcomes and freedom. Challenge students to look up these words in a dictionary. Then invite students to share the meanings with the class.





Martin Luther King Jr.

We remember MLK,
Honored on this special day.

He had a dream that we would stand
United together in this land,
That we would strive to find a way
To live as friends in peace today.
He wanted each of us to see
The beauty of equality.

He taught that right overcomes wrong,
That hope can turn the weak to strong,
And showing love instead of hate
Would make our country truly great.
His message, meant to set us free,
Was filled with hope for you and me.

So on this day let freedom ring,
As we remember Dr. King!

