

Meet Dr. King

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE * MEET DR. KING CLASSROOM STUDY GUIDE

About the Show!

Martin Luther King Jr. grew up in Atlanta, Georgia alongside his older sister and younger brother. Dr. King worked very hard in school and eventually graduated from college with a PhD in Religion. He moved to Alabama with his wife and began ministering. There he became the leader for the Civil Rights Movement, a movement to secure equal rights for African Americans, and held peaceful protests. He later won the Noble Peace Prize and helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

THE REAL LESSON!

In the show, we get to see how Dr. King deals with conflict with others. He never resorted to violence, rather he used his intelligence and kindness to talk through issues with others. Try and remember that conflict will come up in situations, but there are other ways to deal with it such as taking turns, sharing, and apologizing.



Leading the Civil Rights Movement

Dr. King became the leader of the Civil Rights Movement because his community trusted in him. On August 28, 1964 he led the March on Washington for jobs and freedom in order to shed light on inequality in the U.S. Close to 300,000 people participated in this rally. What do you think it takes to be a leader in your community? Why do you think Dr. King was such a successful leader?

In 1983, Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating the holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on the third Monday of January. It was first celebrated in 1986.



Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia.



The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is located in West Potomac Park in Washington, D.C. The Memorial opened to the public on August 28th, 2011.



Dr. King's Timeline

1954: After graduating with a doctorate degree from Boston University, Dr. King moves to Montgomery, Alabama to lead Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

1955: Rosa Parks refuses her seat to a white passenger, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

1956: Dr. King's home is bombed while he is at a meeting. His wife and daughter escape unhurt.

1957: Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

1960: The Sit-in Movement gains national attention sparked by four students from NC. Dr. King returns to Atlanta where he becomes co-pastor of his father's church and expands the work of the SCLC.

1963: Dr. King brings the SCLC to help Birmingham become integrated. This is the most violent city in America and has earned the nickname of "Bombingham."

April 1963: Dr. King responds to a letter in the paper with his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

1963: The March on Washington challenges America as millions tune in to watch the "I Have a Dream" speech on televisions around the world.

1964: The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Dr. King. The Civil Rights Bill is passed making segregation in public places illegal.

1964-67: Dr. King speaks out against the Vietnam War, and starts focusing on other issues such as poverty and the rights of the poor.

April 3, 1968: In Memphis, TN, Dr. King delivers his "I Have Seen the Mountain Top" speech, a remarkable and inspiring speech that is also his last.

April 4, 1968: James Earl Ray shoots and kills Dr. King at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



THE KING FAMILY

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dad was Martin Luther King Sr. Originally their names were Michael King, but after an inspiring trip to Germany, Senior decided to change his name and his son's name to Martin Luther after the Protestant Reformer. Martin Luther King Jr. often thanked his Father for setting a noble example in ministry of the church and black rights. Senior and Junior also became joint pastors at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia where Senior and his wife were married. Even after Senior's son's death, he continued to end segregation in Georgia.

The picture below was taken during the celebrations that followed the end of Segregation in the South.



STOP & THINK:

DR. KING TALKS ABOUT EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FOR ALL. WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN TO YOU AND WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO BE TREATED EQUALLY?

If you had the chance to meet Dr. King, what are some questions you would like to ask him?

What are some Civil Rights issues that are still going on today?

Why is so important that Dr. King preached nonviolence during the protests? How could that be applied to a movement or group around the world today?

WHAT IS THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL STORY YOU HAVE LEARNED DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH?



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EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES!

Class Pledge: The Civil Rights Movement couldn't have happened without the teamwork of a lot of different people. As a class or school, write a pledge that you all agree on about the importance of equality in your class and display it all year long so you never forget working together for something great!

How to be a Hero!

Dr. King was a hero to many people. What are some qualities you think it takes to be a hero?

Draw your Hero!

Draw a picture of your hero and explain what makes them a hero in your eyes.



Building Teamwork & Trust Games!

Cooperation Game: Stand Up! - Two players sit back with legs stretched out in front of them. They must try to stand up without using their arms. You must work together to reach the goal.

Communication Game: Secret Calls! Groups are made up of 2 to 3 players. Each group agrees on a special signal (grunting, meowing, or even better, something totally unusual). All members of all teams are now blindfolded and mixed up throughout the room. The members of the groups must now try to find each other. Touching is not allowed and no other signals or words are allowed other than your secret call!

Teamwork Game: Untie the Knot! All players stand in a circle, everyone walks to the middle until there is no more room. They close their eyes and hold the hand of another player. The knot must now be undone, making one or more circles, without ever letting go of the hands.

CREATE A SPEECH (OLDER AGE ACTIVITY)

Martin Luther King Jr. was an inspiring leader and storyteller and just like Bright Star told you a story today, you too can tell stories that are important to you. Take time to write a scene, journal entry, speech, story, poem, anything you want and share it with your classmates or family.

DESIGN A DREAM (YOUNGER AGE ACTIVITY)

Do you dare to dream? Draw a poster with the headliner "I Have A Dream" then draw pictures of what dreams you have for your life or for your family and friends.

STORY CIRCLE (ACTIVITIES FOR ALL)

One person begins a tale and stops after a few sentences. The next person picks up the story thread and continues it, then stops. Each person adds to it and so on until the tale comes to a resolution. The story could begin with a pre-selected title or subject to guide the improvisation. Try recording the story circle for later listening.



Before, During and After the Play...



YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Try your best at new things! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes & you could be a theatre pro!



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear and see what is happening on stage and so the actors can do their job.
2. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
3. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous playwright. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

Ancient Greek audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands to applaud.

Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

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THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.



ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.



The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

MEET DR. KING

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

MEET DR. KING

Made its debuts in January of 2016
National Tour

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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