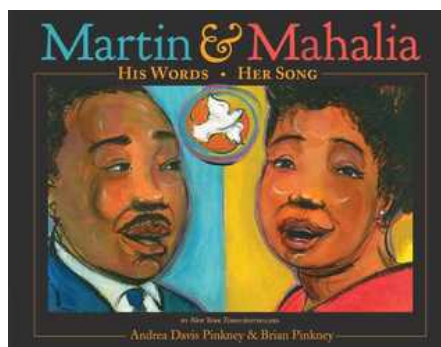




Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song

Andrea Davis Pinkney , Brian Pinkney

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They were each born with the gift of gospel.

*Martin's voice kept people in their seats, but also sent their praises soaring.
Mahalia's voice was brass-and-butter - strong and smooth at the same time.*

With Martin's sermons and Mahalia's songs, folks were free to shout, to sing their joy.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and his strong voice and powerful message were joined and lifted in song by world-renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. It was a moment that changed the course of history and is imprinted in minds forever. Told through Andrea Davis Pinkney's poetic prose and Brian Pinkney's evocative illustration, the stories of these two powerful voices and lives are told side-by-side -- as they would one day walk -- following the journey from their youth to a culmination at this historical event when they united as one and inspiring kids to find their own voices and speak up for what is right.

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song Details

Date : Published July 30th 2013 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316070133

Author : Andrea Davis Pinkney , Brian Pinkney

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From Reader Review Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song for online ebook

Tibby (she/her) says

A beautiful picture book that looks at the March on Washington and King's "I Have a Dream" speech from a different angle. Andrea Pinkney has chosen a moment in history and examines the relationship and path that led up to it. Interestingly, she uses the idea of a path or journey in both a literal and metaphorical way. The book begins and ends with signposts and directions. Brian Pinkney's illustrations illuminate this by showing a swirling path- sometimes an artistic flourish, sometimes a swath of road with words directing the reader-through each spread.

The story jumps between Martin and Mahalia and how the two were almost destined to meet and have an impact together. His words were powerful and he had a gift for oratory. Her song was powerful and she had a gift for singing. Their early years set them on their paths to speech and song. Together they worked tirelessly for equal rights. At the Lincoln Memorial Mahalia quieted the crowd and prepared them to listen to Martin by singing. She prompted him as he spoke by saying "Tell them about your dream, Martin."

Pinkney's words are incredibly poetic and lyrical, almost like a song. She breaks out important words into short sentences and blocks that bring to mind choruses of songs. While the book is clearly best for older readers (say, 7 or 8 and up) the rhythm of it still made it engaging for my three year old. The pictures too are so flowing they seem to be musical. Swirls of color, movement, words and arrows march you along with the protesters and keep time with the music of the words. Each illustration also uses a color palette for the background and that tints the people and objects in them- rosy pinks, cool blues, fresh greens. That, too, plays into the musicality of the pictures.

I was surprised to notice race and racism were really not explicitly brought up. There were two mentions , one of Jim Crow laws and what that meant and another in using King's words from his speech. And there are some key places, like in talking about the Montgomery Bus Boycott, that she doesn't use the words "black" and "white" to delineate the "us" and "them" groups. That seemed like an interesting choice and while the story is clearly about the black experience, it made it feel even more universal.

Pair this amazing book with Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport for a good look at why we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. More broadly, there are tons of excellent titles about the Civil Rights Movement available to all ages.

Barbara says

Juxtaposing the moving words of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the melodic tones of Mahalia Jackson, this book provides background information about the two while describing their involvement in the civil rights movement and their friendship. The book makes it clear that inspiration and motivation for change come from many sources. The author's pitch-perfect prose and the marvelous watercolor and India ink illustrations include snippets from both of their lives. The pairing of the two provides a fresh perspective on the story of civil rights in this nation. Although many readers may be aware of the importance of singing to rouse and comfort the protesters during that particular time period, they may not have realized just how important music was.

Heidi Goehmann says

I love picture books like this with a great vantage point of history, poetic language, and research and resources at the end.

Bill Hawthorne says

Text Set 7: Martin & Mahalia: His Words Her Song written and illustrated by Andrea Davis Pickney and Brian Pickney is an artful, dual-biography of Martin Luther King and Mahalia Jackson. This is an interesting text, because it briefly explores the early life of King, which is not always spoken of in school, and at the same time, it brings to life the story of Mahalia Jackson, a less well-known figure in the Civil Rights Movement. It explores how their lives paralleled each other in many ways, and how they became aware of each other through their fame and ability to spread the gospel and move people. Their messages, delivered through words, sermons, and songs, told people to walk the path toward freedom and equality. Soon, they began to work together, including at the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The text focuses on the collective feeling inspired by these two amazing individuals and how they influenced each other. At the end, there is a helpful timeline of their lives and major events in the Civil Rights Movement. Most interestingly, there is a “Selected Discography” of songs by Mahalia Jackson. As further reading, students and teachers could listen to these songs and analyze the lyrics, bringing in a new kind of media and text to the classroom, perhaps inspiring kids who are interested with music and moved by song. Martin & Mahalia shows how historically important people do not live in vacuums separated from one another. They often influence and support each other in their common ideals and goals. This text serves as a great inspiration for kids once they have learned about the history and the facts of the Civil Rights Movement.

Joan says

This book depicts the relationship between the speech and music of the 1950s-1960s, in Louisiana. The watercolor art is done by New York Times bestselling Husband-and-wife team. The ties of all three people are evident and well represent the African culture and Americans. It speaks well of the civil rights movement, but also the arts. Great for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (2013). Publishers Weekly. <http://www.booksinprint.com/DetailedV...#>

Wayne Public Library

1. What talents did Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson use to change the world?
 2. Why were leaders needed to change the treatment of people in the 1960s?
 3. Name three ways our school treats all students with respect.
 4. Compare the work of the two and explain how they differ, but both necessary.
 5. Pick any painting in the book and relate how the drawing and colors bring emotion to the words.
 6. Create your own art to share a form of racial acceptance.
-

Stephen Krawec says

(Book #3 of Text Set)

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song, is written and illustrated by Andrea Davis Pickney and Brian Pickney and is the biography of both Martin Luther King and Mahalia Jackson. This book highlights the early life of MLK, which is a less-explored part of his life considering that most students only learn about his impact on the civil rights movement. However, it also ties in Mahalia Jackson, who is a lesser-known figure in the movement and someone about whom I knew nothing prior to reading this book. The book examines how their lives were interwoven and how the duo used their fame to inspire people. Their words and songs told people all over to take action and stand up for equality. Soon, they began to work together, including at the historic March on Washington.

The text largely centers on the collective feeling of hope brought about by Martin and Mahalia. The end of the book also provides a timeline of their lives and major events in the movement, which readers will definitely find useful. Another cool feature of the book is the Selected Discography of songs by Mahalia Jackson, which could be used as a way for teachers to introduce multiple modalities of learning into the classroom as a way to pique the interests and learning abilities of all children. This book shows how two important leaders influenced and supported each other in realizing their vision.

Daniel Markowski says

Plot Summary: We know that he had a dream but this book teaches you so much more. Martin Luther King Jr. grew up with a passion to preach just like his grandfather and father. He spoke the gospel. Mahalia grew up with a passion to sing. She sang the gospel. Together they shared the gospel through speaking and singing. They taught the gospel and about freedom! They both were African Americans so they barely had any freedom because of their race. So Martin spoke to a huge group of people about freedom! This story shows the life and history of Martin Luther King Jr. in a different way by using a picture book. It also introduces you to Mahalia. You always hear the power of the speech for Martin but you never hear the story of singing from Mahalia.

Classroom Connection: This picture book biography would be a great book to introduce Martin Luther King Jr. Then the next activities could be finding more books on Martin, creating once again a text set. With poems about Martin and the topic could also move to slavery and the civil rights movement of African Americans. The students could explore different people that were involved in the civil rights movement. On the topic of Martin Luther King Jr. the students could watch the speech. Even though they might not understand the whole speech it still is important for them to watch.

Andrew Upchurch says

This book is about the relationship between Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson and how music and speech goes hand in hand with one another. The moving words from Martin and the inspiring tones from Mahalia's voice really elevates this book. The book provides background information about the two while describing their involvement in the civil rights movement. The theme in the book can be described as an inspirational or a motivational movement for change and how it can come from a variety of sources. The illustrations are colorful and vibrant. The watercolor illustrations are very deliberate as most of Martin's pages are blues and greens, while Mahalia Jackson's pages are red and orange. While when they are both on the page it is more of a purple color. This book would be a tool to introduce ideas such as theme and symbolism to young readers. I would not want to force it down their throats, but just using it as a bridge to

tie reading to some important vocabulary.

Shelli says

A beautiful non-fiction picture book of two people whose voices roused a movement of equality for all. Martin Luther King's speeches and Mahalia Jackson's singing worked together perfectly to light up many hearts & souls. Make sure to read this to your kiddos and then share a video of there message, such as this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odHqG...>

Kaelyn O'Brien says

This book is about the relationship between Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson and how music and speech goes hand in hand with one another. The moving words from Martin and the inspiring tones from Mahalia's voice really elevates this book. The illustrations are what really made this book enjoyable for me. The colors are so vibrant and I liked the difference between pages with Martin on them and pages with Mahalia on them and then the blending of the color when they had been on the same page. I could see this book being used to introduce Martin Luther King Jr. to a class or as a way to teach some concepts (such as theme) to readers. The theme of this book in the movement for change and you could easily talk to the students about how the illustrations are adding to the theme. This would no doubt be a book I want to have in my classroom.

Karen says

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song wins the Self-Rescuing Princess Society seal of approval for showing the power of a single voice to inspire a nation, and how the joining of two remarkable voices change the world. This book is a beautiful bedtime story for younger children, as well as an excellent choice for early and middle grade readers.

Read the full review: <https://selfrescuingprincesssociety.b...>

Melissa Berke says

Reflection on ONE: Text to text, text to self, text to world connection with the book

In 2005, I had the opportunity to tour the Birmingham Civil Rights institute. The museum's collection chronicle the civil rights movement and contain video, documents of events including recordings of MLK speeches and Mahalia Jackson singing.

Write six discussion questions using all six stages of Bloom's Taxonomy

1. Knowledge:

When do the events of this book take place?

2. Comprehension:

Describe the method that Martin Luther King and his followers used throughout the Civil Rights Movement.

3. Application:

Design a picket sign that you could carry along the march with Martin Luther King.

4. Analysis:

Compare/contrast the lives of Mahalia and Martin. Although they worked together, how are were they different? How were they the same.

5. Synthesis:

Mrs. Smith's class is being treated differently than our class. They have more recess, they get lunch from a restaurant everyday, and they have desks and supplies that are brand new. Using the principles that Mahalia and Martin used, how might you work for equal treatment of both classes?

6. Evaluation:

What do you believe would be the most difficult thing for someone participating in the "March on Washington"?

An adapted book review citation:

<http://www.booklistonline.com/Martin-...>

Nancy Kotkin says

Text: 4 stars

Illustrations: 5 stars

Beautifully illustrated nonfiction picture book about the collaboration between Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahalia Jackson, and the motivation they jointly provided for the civil rights movement in the 1960s. More of an artistic and inspirational book than a biography. Includes a civil rights timeline and suggested further reading.

Michelle Moore says

Core Curricular Ties: Social Studies, Reading, Art

How Could Be Used:

This book could be used for learning about the Civil Rights and segregation. It gives a lot of information about two people that used their voices to speak up for change. They could also use compare and contrast to explain that even though they used their voices in different ways, they had the same goal for change. There are also some literary devices (his voice was steady as a train.) Brian Pinkney uses a lot of imagery and symbolism in his art. He has a page at the back of the book that explains why he choose to do the art the way that he did. The pictures are beautiful and vibrant so kids would enjoy creating some watercolor painting that emulate this story.

Rationale:

This is a strong book that shows some of the hardships that Black/African American people went through. It demonstrates how hard people worked for a change. Not only is this book culturally diverse in that it teaches tolerance and working for change, but it also has a lot of true information with beautiful pictures. Students

would be engaged with this book.

Mary Ann says

While Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke the gospel and led his people with his words, Mahalia Jackson sang the gospel and spread the word through her song. The Pinkneys show through inspiring words and pictures how these two pivotal figures in the Civil Rights Movement worked together to lead the American people with their voices. “Martin’s sermons and Mahalia’s spirituals told their listeners: YOU ARE HERE. On the path. Come along. Step proud. Stand strong. Be brave. Go with me. To a place, to a time, when all will BE FREE.” Full of hope, this beautiful book captures the way these two leaders came together to use their gifts to call for change.
