



**Worksheet 1. Reading: *I Have a Dream*: Speech by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963**

*(This speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. is known as being strong and persuasive, inspiring long-overdue changes in civil rights in the United States.)*

**Read excerpts from this famous speech. Then review the glossary and complete the exercises that follow it.**

- 1 I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its  
2 creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."  
3 I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not  
4 be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
- 5 I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the  
6 sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.
- 7 This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be  
8 able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to  
9 transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.  
10 With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go  
11 to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.
- 12 Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring—when we let  
13 it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city—we will be able  
14 to speed up that day when all of God's children—black men and white men, Jews and  
15 Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics—will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the  
16 old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"
- 17 Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of  
18 brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.



## Worksheet 1 (page 2)

### Glossary

- Line 2 *all men are created equal* — a reference to a phrase in the Declaration of Independence, a document in which the U.S. declared its independence from England. It means that each person has the same rights under the law.
- Line 5 *Georgia* — a state in the southeastern part of the United States
- Line 9 *jangling discords* — very unpleasant noises
- Line 12 *Let freedom ring* — a phrase from a patriotic U.S. song which calls for freedom for every person.
- Line 14 *Jews* — people whose religion is Judaism
- Line 15 *Gentiles* — people whose religion is not Judaism
- Line 15 *Catholics and Protestants* — two of the major religions in the U.S.
- Line 16 *God Almighty* — a phrase that praises God
- Line 16 *Negro* — a word formerly used to describe a black person. Now the word is considered old-fashioned, and even offensive.
- Line 17 *racial* — pertaining to a person's race
- Line 17 *quicksand* — literally, wet sand that you can't escape from. Here, a situation that one can't escape from.

### Comprehension practice

Check all of the completions that are true, according to the reading.

- This speech is meant to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - an intellectual puzzle
  - an inspiration
  - a call to everyone for unity and social justice
  - a request for money
  - a message of congratulations
- Dr. King speaks of a dream. By dream, he means a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - hope
  - fantasy
  - project
  - book
  - dream that a person has while sleeping
- Dr. King states that he wants \_\_\_\_\_.
  - one group to dominate
  - all groups to live together in peace
  - education for everyone
  - free medical care
  - free elections