

Table of Contents

The Dreamer.....	4–5
The Father Who Was an Activist	6–7
King Gets an Education in Segregation	8–9
Transportation Segregation.....	10–11
Sitting Down to Get the Job Done.....	12–13
The Battle for Birmingham	14–15
A Letter from Jail	16–17
March on Washington	18–19
We Want to Vote!.....	20–21
From Selma to Montgomery.....	22–23
King Clashes with Some	24–25
Poor People’s Campaign	26–27
The Fate of a Nonviolent Man	28–29
Glossary.....	30
Index.....	31
Image Credits.....	32

The Dreamer

If ever there was a dreamer, it was Martin Luther King Jr. When he was just a little kid, he told his mother he was going to turn this world upside down. There is no denying that this first dream came true. At that age, he had no idea he would fight his nation's second civil war. It is certain that King had many more dreams, but there was one that stood out from the rest. He said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."



This movie theater had two entrances, one for white people and one for African Americans. African Americans had to enter upstairs through a separate door.



King was a very gifted speaker. His words motivated people across the country.

King grew up during a very difficult time in the South. The South had laws that kept races separate from one another. African Americans and whites could not go to the same restaurants or drink from the same fountains. This treatment is called **segregation** (seg-rih-GAY-shuhn).

People in the South called these laws, the Jim Crow laws. This referred to a character from the 1800s. At that time, some white actors painted their faces black. Then they put on shows for entertainment. Jim Crow was a famous character from those shows. This character made African Americans look silly.

A Famous Court Case

In 1892, a man named Homer Plessy wanted to test the Fourteenth Amendment. This amendment says that all men have equal protection under the law. In other words, all men should be treated equally.

Seven out of eight of Plessy's great-grandparents were white. But laws in the South said that because Plessy had African American relatives, he was not a white man. When Plessy sat in the part of the train for white people, the police arrested him.

Plessy's case went to the United States Supreme Court. They ruled that as long as both African Americans and whites had seating on trains, then it was okay that they had to sit separately. This was called "separate but equal." In the end, the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* made the Jim Crow laws **legal**.