

## ***Elementary Reader #1: Grant Henricksen, Hickey Elementary***

### ***30 Years Strong***

Theodore Roosevelt said, "Knowing what's right doesn't mean much unless you do what's right!" Today we are talking about having the strength to do what's right. Martin Luther King was one of those people who had strength to do what was right. Not physical strength, but strength of character. He was someone who was bullied his whole life, just because of the color of his skin. They put him in prison, bombed his house, threatened his family, and he just kept going on doing what he knew was right. Babe Ruth said that: "You can't beat the person who won't give up." Martin Luther King was one of those people. He had the courage to stand up to the bullies of his time with his words and not give up until they took his life.

But we have bullies today, too, and we need to have the courage and strength to stand up to them and say "NO!" We can't be bystanders and just look on when we see something that is happening that is wrong. Together we can fight against the people who are bullying others. MLK said "It isn't the words of our enemies that we remember, but the silence of our friends." That means if you see someone getting hurt or upset because of someone else, then stand up for them, don't just walk away and not get involved. We can't just stand around and wait for things to change. We have to do what we know is right.

The people who fought against him were bullies just like we have sometimes on our playgrounds. My brother is in 5th grade. He and his friends made a club called the A.B.S. That's the "Anti-Bullying-Squad." Abs are the part of the body that can make you strong. The A.B.S. is strong because it tries to make sure that there is no bullying on our playground and everyone can feel safe. This is what Martin Luther King was trying to do. His legacy was to fight the bullies with words not fists. Martin Luther King's example of strength when he was bullied by those people who didn't like what he said, is making our country stronger today. Even though they took his life, the bullies didn't win! We know what to do. Don't be a bystander. Do what is right Choose to be strong!

**Elementary Reader #2: Paul Mansur, Brinker Elementary**

Paul Mansur M.L.K. contest

All of us know

the one thing we must show,

Strength is the thing

Martin would want us to bring,

For all those days when you feel down,

when you are lost strength will make you

found,

but where does it come from, do you

want to know,

it comes your parents, your teachers, or

people who show

So forget about feeling sad, forget about

feeling mad,

let strength bring you into this lovely world,

let it open your eyes, but do not be fooled,

do not let strength make you greedy,

instead share it equally with those who are

needy,

Share it with people you meet,

Share it with people you seek,

(repeat 4x please)

## *Elementary Reader #3: Laurie Spitz, Hightower Elementary*

By Laurie

### I Have A Dream

I have a Dream

No matter how impossible it seems  
And I'm going to make sure it follows through.

It's a dream about Neutrality

Black and White Equality

Where my color affects nothing that I do.

I have a Thought

And it won't be all for naught

Where my children won't be judged just by their Skin.

Why are we all fighting

When the way we could be lighting

For our offspring and our offsprings'

Next of Kin?

I have an Idea

Where people don't say, "See ya!"

Simply because their outsides aren't theirs.

No matter Color or Race

Your Body and your Face

Are really only Masks a person wears.

I have a Goal

To have every story told

And to not have to live in Separation.

All throughout my life

I've seen Judgement and Strife

And if it stays, we'll be Divided as a Nation.

I have a Dream

I have a Thought

And even when it seems it's all for naught

I'll go on and I'll stay strong

Await the dawn through cold nights long

And until then I'll sing my Song

I'll prove all Segregation wrong.

I take the weak under my wing

Justice is what I hope to bring

Through the world let Freedom ring

In these notes of this tune I Sing

Who am I?

Martin Luther King.

## Elementary Reader #4: Matthew Manning, Weatherford

### Elementary

# Path To Success

To lead is to inspire,  
to find a different way,  
a place where no one has gone  
before. Filled with fear, excitement,  
courage, and hope to discover the  
unknown.

Risks are on the horizon to make  
a change in the world. It's a path we  
need to follow for the generations  
to come.

Strength is a super hero we  
all have within ourselves, be the  
leader, be the voice be, the one  
to make a choice.

Doing nothing is a failure, but  
dreaming doesn't cost a dime.  
Motivate to make a difference  
ignite the flame in all our lives.

So dream big, speak from the  
heart, stand up for what is right.  
Then you will make a change  
that all desire!

## ***Elementary Reader #5: Zoey Forsvall, Hughston Elementary***

### ***The Power of Strength***

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought segregation and was put in jail around twenty times, but he still bravely fought forward. So did my mom. My mom had breast cancer and was in the hospital for almost a week. It was especially hard for her because she also was diagnosed with a concussion. She too had to fight through these setbacks even though it was extremely difficult at the time.

Just as my mom fought cancer, Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for civil rights because he felt that everyone deserved to be treated equally. Every time he marched in a protest, he risked his life for his beliefs. He was called names, and people even threw things at him like stones, bottles, and firecrackers. Despite being knocked down over and over again, he still felt that the color of your skin shouldn't matter.

Both Martin and my mom fought hard through many challenges. I've learned from their strength that you need to power through your struggles no matter how many times you get knocked down. When I grow up, I want to be strong and courageous just like my mom and Martin Luther King, Jr.

## ***Elementary Reader #6: Leydi Arreola, Sigler Elementary***

### ***Martin Changed the World***

Martin Luther King changed the world by solving the problem of blacks and whites.

Martin Luther King changed the world by using words and speaking with love.

Martin Luther King changed the world so that all children would go to the same schools.

Martin Luther King changed the world by using his strength to change thoughts, respecting others.

Martin Luther King changed my life because now I can play with all children.

Martin Luther King, with his strength, made us stronger to make us open to everyone equally, without fear.

***Elementary Reader #7: Dhanya Casavaraju, Brinker  
Elementary***

***MLK Jr. (Acrostic Poem - lines spell out STRENGTH)***

<b>S</b>	howed strength by explaining to people that no one should be judged by their skin color.
<b>T</b>	ried to help everyone by standing up to his and everyone else's rights.
<b>R</b>	eminded us that all of us can be friends together.
<b>E</b>	xplained that all of us are the same and that we don't have control of our skin color.
<b>N</b>	ever stopped trying to get his rights even after he got thrown into jail.
<b>G</b>	ave all of us equal rights and stopped segregation.
<b>T</b>	hrown in jail but when he got out he got up and tried again.
<b>H</b>	elped us by telling us to stand up for the right thing.

**Elementary Reader #8: Gavin Tran, Brinker Elementary**

Gavin Tran

11-3-16

The Bravery of  
Dr. Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. showed his strength by showing his love, not hate. Also, he showed his strength by risking his life for others. He continued to show his strength by standing up for others because he wanted them to have peace and equal rights. He dreamed that all people should be free no matter where they were from.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. changed my life for the better by letting me see that I have the right to play with people of any race and the right to an education to dream my biggest dreams. His march for freedom has inspired me to stand up for others and treat them equally, letting his footsteps guide me.