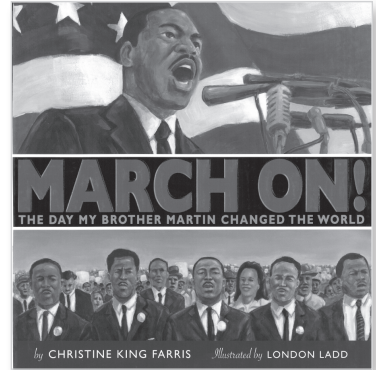


CLOSE READING LESSON

March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World

BY CHRISTINE KING FARRIS

ILLUSTRATED BY LONDON LADD



Close reading is a thorough reading and rereading of text, making the process of reading visible. We demonstrate the reading process, illuminate fine writing techniques, and connect themes in support of the 7 Strengths Model.

Summary: Written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sister, Christine King Farris, *March On!* details the day leading up to Dr. King's famous "I Have Dream" speech. The book recounts images of those who marched to Washington, D.C. on that monumental day in civil rights history. The wording clearly evokes the hope of all the marchers and of Dr. King that some day the world will change.

BEFORE READING

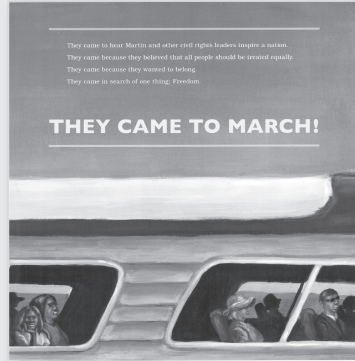
Discuss Hope:

- What does the word *hope* mean to you?
- When you think of hope, what other words come to mind?
- What are you hopeful for about the future?

Discuss the Book's Cover:

- What do the colors and portraits tell you about possible themes?
- Consider the title. Let's discuss it in the context of hope.

DURING READING



Author's Craft:

- Why might the author have chosen to repeat words? What emphasis is the author trying to convey?
- Why might the author have capitalized the last line?

Peace is certainly what Martin had on his mind as he stood next to the marble statue of President Abraham Lincoln, where he spent most of the afternoon helping other speakers put the final touches on their speeches, and shaking hands with people who had come, too, to make their voices heard.

Interpretation:

- What themes might the author be conveying through the demonstrators' actions? What role might hope be playing in these scenes?

My brother Martin had a dream. He shared it with the marchers. He shared it with the nation. And the world. It was a beautiful, inspirational dream. One day, he said, children would live in a nation where they would be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin—where black boys and girls would be able to join hands with white boys and girls as sisters and brothers.

Interpretation:

- What feelings do you think Martin was trying to stir in his audience?
- How do you think Martin's words made his audience feel more hopeful?

AFTER READING

- In what way does the strength of hope inform the entire book?
- Let's discuss Martin's message. What kind of hope do you believe the author feels it gave the world? What do you think?
- What are your greatest hopes for yourself, your community, and your world?

► For other favorite books on hope, see page 203.