

I have a Dream

"We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence [...]

We cannot be satisfied *as long as*¹ the negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are *stripped of their self-hood*² and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: "For Whites Only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote [...]

I say to you today, my friends. And so even though *we face*³ the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. [...]

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners⁴ will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood⁵.

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.

I have a dream today! I have a dream that one day, *down* in Alabama, little black boys and black girls *will be able to join hands*⁶ with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a *dream* today !...With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to *go to jail*⁷ together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day...

That day *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

*Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty,*⁸ *we are free at last!*

Activities

1. After reading King's speech carefully, answer the following questions:

1. Was King in favour of violent protest?
2. Did Negroes live in ghettos?
3. What the sign "For whites only" mean?
4. Could all Negroes vote at the time of King's speech?
5. What were King's dreams for America's blacks?

2. Make a summary giving the essential points of Martin Luther King's speech.

1. finché
2. spogliate della loro personalità
3. affrontiamo
4. proprietari di schiavi
5. fratellanza
6. si prenderanno per mano
7. andremo in prigione
8. Onnipotente