



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. His grandparents and parents were strong influences in his life of activism. As a young child, he also loved hearing his father preach, and he decided to become a minister, ordained in 1948. In 1954 he gave his first sermon as the pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. His full-blown participation in the Civil Rights movement came in response to Rosa Parks' arrest. He was president of the group that demanded equal treatment on buses. Over the next 13 years, Dr. King faced all kinds of brutality, harassment and imprisonment because of his activism. He drew strength from the witness and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He was assassinated in April, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

BOOKS FOR THE FAMILY:

MEMPHIS, MARTIN AND THE MOUNTAINTOP. Alice Faye Duncan (author), R. Gregory Christie (illustrator) Calkins Creek, 2018. (7-10 yrs.) This book tells the story of the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. through the eyes of Lorraine Jackson, a fictitious 9-year old.

MY UNCLE MARTIN'S BIG HEART. Angela Farris Watkins (author), Eric Velasquez (illustrator). Harry N Abrams. 2010. (4-7). In this book the author celebrates the special relationship she had as a very young girl with her "Uncle M.L."

DEAR MARTIN. Nic Stone (author). Ember, 2018. (ages 14-17). This book is the author's attempt to examine current affairs, especially the shooting deaths of unarmed African American teens, through the lens of MLK's teachings.

ADULT READERS

WHY WE CAN'T WAIT. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jesse Jackson. 2000. Signet. Jesse Jackson says this book tells the story of the third revolution in the United States. It explores the events and forces behind the Civil Rights movement.

MOVIES:

SELMA. 2014. This movie tells the gripping story of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

MY FRIEND MARTIN. 1999. This animated children's movie features two teens who go back in time and spend time with Martin Luther King.

MLK/FBI. 2020. This documentary delves into the FBI'S attempts to discredit Dr. King, highlighting all the harassment.