



# Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King Jr.

*Jean Marzollo , Brian Pinkney (Illustrator)*

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Category: Biography

This book is a beautifully-rendered study of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, told in simple, straightforward language for even the youngest of readers to understand. Pinkney's scratchboard and oil pastel illustrations convey both the strength and gentleness of King's character. Both text and art carry his central message of peace and brotherhood among all people.

## Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King Jr. Details

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Author : Jean Marzollo , Brian Pinkney (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King Jr. for online ebook**

## **Michelle Hessler says**

In Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King, by Jean Marzollo and the life and accomplishments of Martin Luther King are discussed. This book is a biography stating times and facts that relate to King and all he has done. In this book the life's work of King is detailed, beginning with his birth and ending with his death. This book introduces topics that may be harder for younger children to process because the book discusses death by assassination. In the beginning of the book the author provides a foreword for parents and teachers to allow them to understand that the contents of the book may not be appropriate for younger readers. I think that providing this in the beginning of the book was a great thing to do as it lets readers know that the material could be hard for younger readers to understand. Providing this in the beginning of the book was a great thing to do as it lets readers know that the material could be hard for younger readers to understand. This book is a great example of a biography as it includes accurate dates of when things in King's life occurred. It also exposes children to the great things that have occurred in the past. This book is a great book for children to read on Martin Luther King's birthday or during Black History month.

Biographies are great to expose children to things that they may have not been exposed to previously. This biography influences children to want to follow the ideals set in place by Martin Luther King. This book is a great book for students to understand history and the difficult history people had experienced. These books are great at revealing historical events and important dates and facts to students. These books also provide children with passion they need to go out and do great things. These books need to be available for children to read because it can open their eyes to things they never knew existed. This book although easy to read may not be an acceptable book to read to those in younger grades. This is only because of the content, which is why the foreword is a smart decision made by the author.

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## **Relyn says**

This book is the most perfect introduction to MLK Day and a study of the Civil Rights Movement. It is appropriate and accessible for kindergarteners and first graders while giving plenty of information and food for thought for third graders. I always begin our Civil Rights unit with this book.

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## **Volkert says**

"Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King" fills a need for effective picture books for young readers about this important American leader. The scratchboard illustrations, although unusual for this format, create a vibrancy that enhances the text.

This narrative revolves around the statement: "The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., is famous because he helped our country change some of its laws." Then in simple language it goes on to explain some of the laws he helped change.

It goes on to say, "Poor people, rich people, white people, black people, and people from all around the world listened when Martin Luther King spoke." Of course, there is mention of his 1963 speech in Washington, D.C., where his "dream was that people everywhere would learn to live together without being mean to one another."

This is an excellent book to read aloud to younger students, although as a school librarian, I have seen it used effectively up to the 5th grade (like another reviewer here). Another good title that covers some of the same territory for young readers is "A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.," by David A. Adler. (January 29, 2002.)

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### **Tessa Duncan says**

This story tells of Martin Luther King Jr's life. Martin grew up in Atlanta as a pastor's son. He was always in his neighborhood trying to solve problems and help others. MLK Jr helped to change some of America's segregation laws. A great book to inform children on who MLK Jr was and why he is so important to American history.

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### **CreateEveryday Classroom says**

I still think this is the best book, the most straight forward and the most appropriate for young children on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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### **Julianne Doucet says**

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King by Jean Marzollo is an excellent picture book for younger readers and a great way to introduce them to the one and only Martin Luther King. This picture book beautifully introduces this heroic figure in a way that addresses the seriousness of the inequality and suffrage of the time but in a way that I felt was appropriate for the targeted age group of this book. Moreover, the illustrations in this book were fantastic and full of detail and deep earthy colors that really brought to life the people behind the story of the Civil Rights Movement. This is a book that I would definitely have in my classroom but only if I am teaching younger students and beginning readers. Martin Luther King is a well know figure and most children will have read into him in older grades so this book would bore them.

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### **Brooke Knuppenburg says**

We used this text to talk about MLK on his birthday. This text gave great details to what he did for our country and how he was a pastor. I think it was written in a very mature manner, but easy enough for students to read on their own or listen to. We used the text for a read-aloud, and the students loved it!

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### **Christina Karvounis says**

Excellent for children of all ages to learn about the life of the extraordinary MLK jr.

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### **Abigail says**

This is a great book to use to introduce pre-k students to Martin Luther King Jr. It includes a short history of his life and explains the issue of civil rights in a way simple enough for young children to understand. The illustrations are also fantastic.

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### **Laura Molinario says**

Biography Picture Book

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### **Anna says**

Finally found a good book about Martin Luther King Jr. to introduce to preschoolers. It even has a little blurb to teachers. Love it!

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### **Madison Persinger says**

This short story is a great story to read to children before or on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and why we celebrate it. Marzollo's word choice is simple enough for children comprehension but still portrays the strong message of Martin Luther's life.

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### **Candice says**

a great introductory biography of MLK Jr for kiddos kindergarten and up.

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### **Catherine says**

This is a relatable, understandable book for young children relating the basic facts of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. My First grade students found it to be engaging and short enough that they could pay attention all the way through. We love that the illustrations are by Brian Pinkney because we learn and discuss that he is the son of Jerry Pinkney, one of our favorite illustrators.

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## **Emily says**

1. This is the story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told in a way that children of any age can understand. The artwork is incredible, and the story's flow is easy to follow.
  2. Grades 2-4
  3. Social Studies, Carpet read
  4. Any student can benefit from this story.
  - 5/6. This is an excellent book to use when talking about MLK. His story is one with which everyone should be familiar, starting from an early age. This book would be a great addition to the biographical section of any classroom library as well.
  7. The Invisible Boy, Matthew and Tilly, Luke's Way of Looking
  8. None
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