

Eleven Days in the Life of Dr. King

Dream Box



<i>Grades</i>	K & up
<i>Core Content Area</i>	Social studies, social-emotional learning
<i>Themes</i>	Classroom management, community building, working together
<i>Materials</i>	Shoebox, construction paper, markers

Dr. King's Eleventh Day is not a day in his life; it is a day in yours. Dr. King shared his dream for a better world. Now it's your turn!

Lesson Procedure

1.) Answer the Following Questions

Write them on a sheet of paper. Younger students could respond with drawings/dictation as needed.

- **What are your dreams for yourself and for others?**
- **How can you make things better in your life and in the lives of people around you?**
- **How would you like to make the world better?**

Turn those in to your teacher to review. Once your teacher has looked at them, they should all be folded and placed in a box. Each day the class can pull out one of the sheets and read aloud to the class.

You might write, "I will invite someone new to my lunch table who may be sitting alone."

2.) Create Challenges for the Class

Teachers might also create challenges for the class to accomplish or project ideas for the day to improve your community. Here are some prompts:

Dream #1: How do you feel when you are excluded from playing on a team, attending a party, sitting at a certain lunch table, or made to sit in a different seat on the bus? Sit across from a partner and talk about your experiences. What can kids do to stop segregation? What can adults do?

Create a giant sheet of construction paper with the title *Our Plan to Include Everyone*. Take a picture of your sheet of solutions and share it along with a note to a community figure, such as a school leader or legislator.

One day, when he was just sixteen years old, Martin Luther King travelled to the state debate championships in Georgia and won first prize. On his way home on the bus, he was confronted by a white person who told him he would have to give up his seat. At that time, Black people were forced to sit in the back of the bus and could be sent to jail if they protested. Martin's teacher convinced him to give up his seat so he wouldn't get into trouble. But Martin never forgot how badly he was treated and he decided he would work put an end to these laws.

Dream #2: Have you ever seen someone bullied and wanted to do something about it? Can you think of a way that you might use a non-violent action to interrupt the bullying? What if you were to stand by a person who was being teased and tell people to stop? What if more than one person stood by that person and told people to stop?

Talk with your teacher about other non-violent ways to help someone who is being picked on and ask them to help create a list that the whole class can use.

Now imagine you are the bully: What leads you to act that way? How could you do things differently, so that you could get your message across or express your feeling without resorting to bullying? Create a list of these strategies as well!

Who is willing to take action today and make the world better? Make this your day to bring kindness, courage, and action into the world. Raise your hand and say “I will do that.” Do it and see how it feels. The Eleventh day begins every morning. Make this day your day to honor Dr. King, and tomorrow and the next day.

The world will be better because you did!