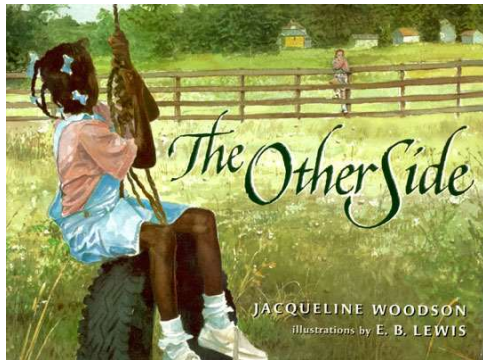


Sunday Storytellers

The Other Side

By Jacqueline Woodson
Illustrations by E. B. Lewis



Background:

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their black side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship, and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. This book is a good selection near the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Sunday Morning:

Welcome & Introductions – Do we know each others' names? Let's go around and introduce ourselves – share your name and your favorite flavor of ice cream.

Background – Tomorrow is a school holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. And today at church we celebrate “Martin Luther King Sunday.”

Not that long ago in the US, people were treated differently because of the color of their skin – people with darker skin did not have the same rights and freedoms as people with lighter skin. MLK helped lead the movement to change this injustice.

There were many leaders in the civil rights movement, as it was called. But Martin stood out, in part because he was a pastor (that is why we call him “Reverend” MLK, a term of respect for church leaders), a brilliant and powerful speaker, and a very spiritual man. He believed love was more powerful than hate and even though he wanted our country to change he was not willing to use violence to make this change happen. He would not let his followers take up guns or weapons even when people used guns and weapons against them.

This book probably takes place about 60 - 70 years ago, about the same time that the civil rights movement, led by Martin Luther King, was beginning to take shape.

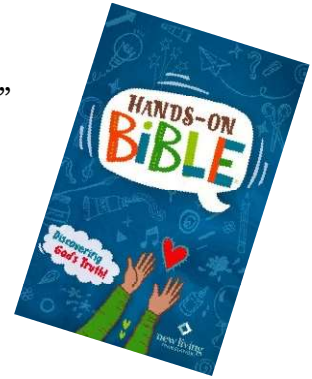
Read the Book: Read it “librarian style” with the pages turned out. Make sure everyone has had a chance to see the pictures before you turn the page.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder what was your favorite part of the story?
- I wonder what the fence means to the girls? To you?
- Are there fences in your life that need to be knocked down?

Hands-on Bible

Since Martin was a pastor, he used a lot of Bible passages in his speeches. Let's find one that he used in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.



- [Hand out the Bibles.] Have the children go to the Table of Contents to find the page number for the book of Galatians.
- Is Galatians in the Old Testament or New Testament? [New]
- Turn to Galatians and find chapter 3 [the chapter numbers are in blue at the top of the pages]
- Now look for verse 28.
- Who would like to read Galatians 3:28? [If no volunteers, go ahead and read! Remember, never force anyone to read aloud.]

Galatians 3:28

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Here's how the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. used this verse in his famous speech:

"...when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when 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 spiritual: "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."

This famous speech was called his "I have a dream" speech because he repeated that phrase over and over... Here were some of things he was dreaming about:

"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." — Martin Luther King Jr.

"I have a dream that one day little black boys and girls will be holding hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers." — Martin Luther King Jr.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." — Martin Luther King Jr.

Activity/Craft – What is your dream for the future?

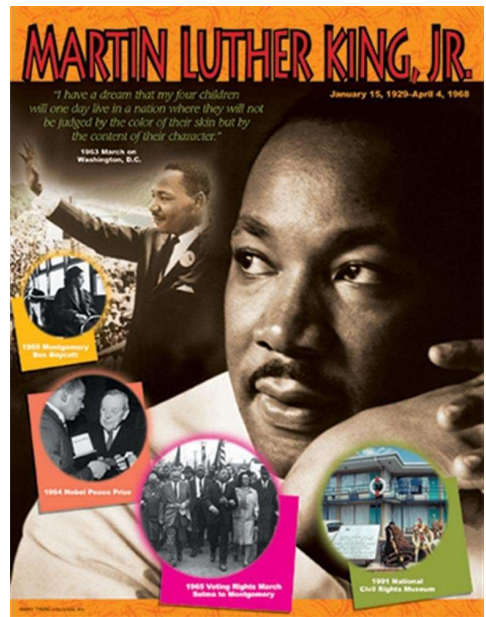
Enlarge and print out thought bubbles (see template, below) onto cardstock.

Have the kids cut them out and then have them finish the sentence: “I have a dream that...” You could pin their responses to a bulletin board or use blue tape to adhere to the wall or a window.

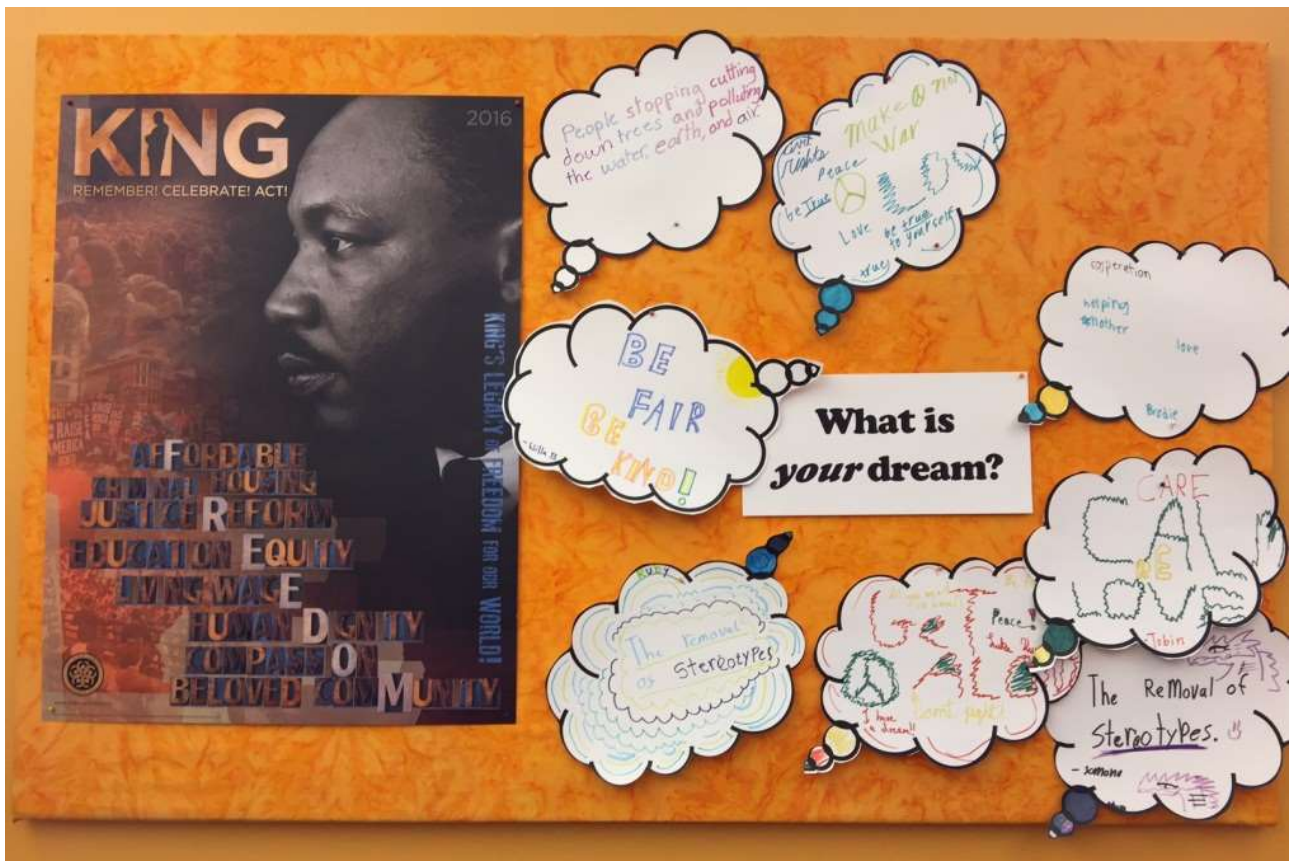
You could also add some of things that Martin Luther King was dreaming about (above).

A poster of Martin Luther King in the classroom would be powerful. There are many to choose from but here’s a suggestion (pictured, right):

<http://bit.ly/3ybD4YJ>



Suggested display:

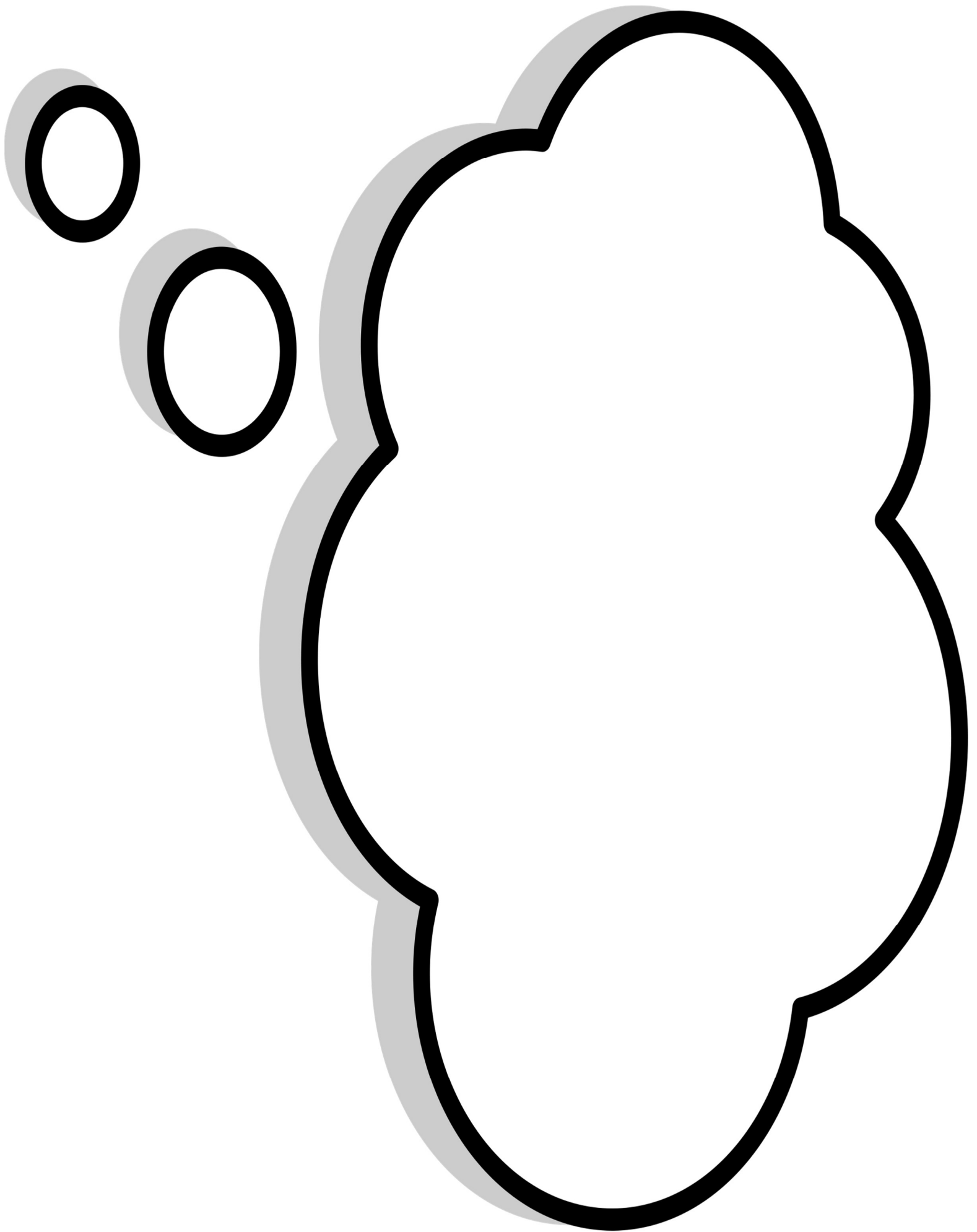


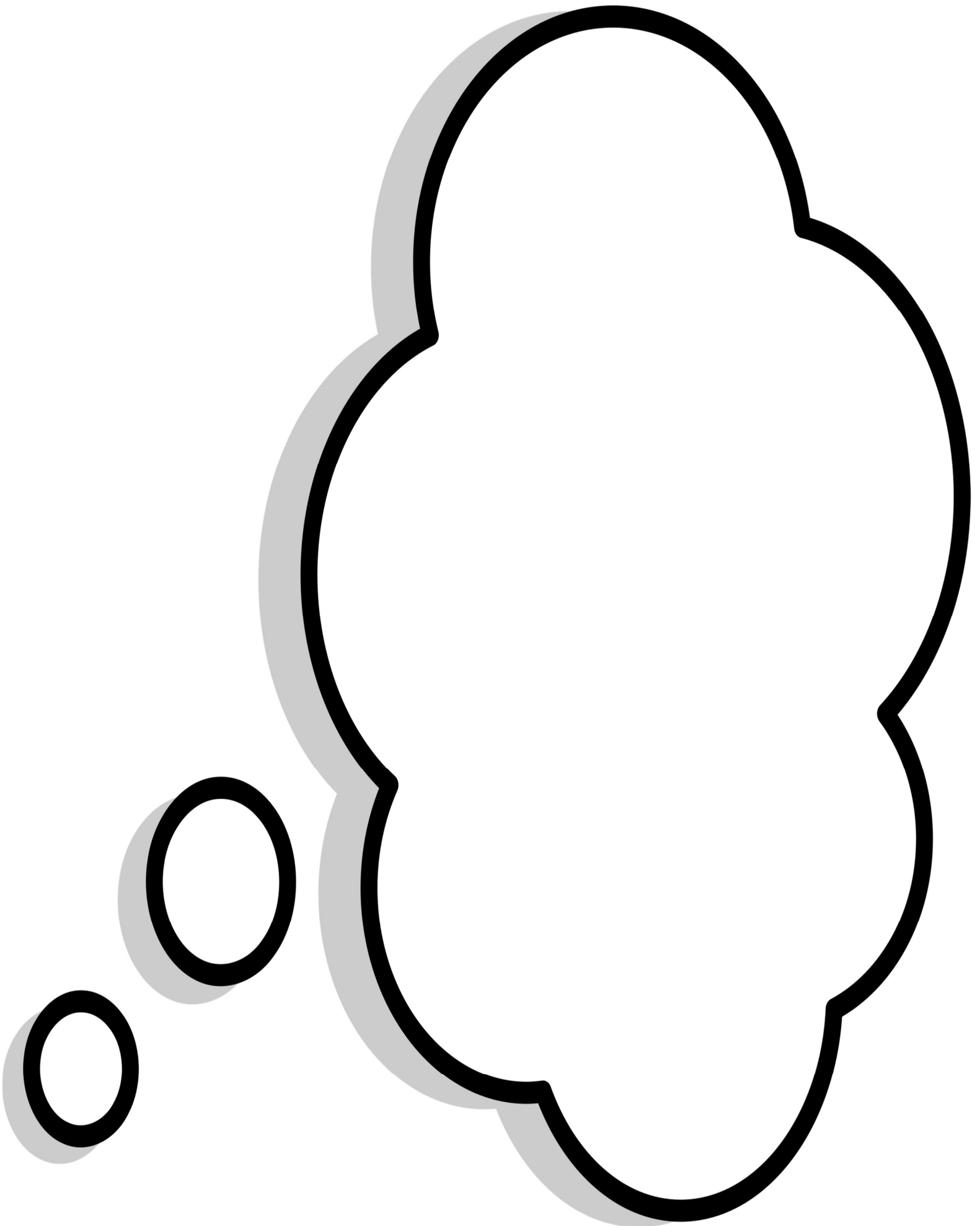
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What is *your* dream?

Appendix:

Here are some more memorable quotes from the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.:

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way”
— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

“People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other.”
— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.”
— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)