



## ☀ Values

- Vision
- Clarity of Purpose
- Courage
- Standing Firm
- Willingness to Sacrifice
- Social Emotional Learning

## ☀ Reflection Questions

Have you ever felt cautious and reluctant about being a leader?

What power do people have when they practice nonviolence and civil disobedience?

Would you ever consider going to jail to protest social injustice?

How has Dr. King's life and his work impacted your life and the world?

## ☀ Lessons Learned

When one person has the courage to know the moment of decision, history can be made.

Leaders accept the responsibility of making personal sacrifices for the good of others.

People who work together for peace and social justice make real changes in society.

Targeted and well-planned economic boycotts can help create positive social change.

# Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Andrew Young

United States

In this story, Andrew Young remembers a turning point for his close friend, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and for the Civil Rights movement in America. Dr. King, often cautious and reluctant, finally accepts the responsibility of being a leader, even going to jail - as an act of civil disobedience, protesting the injustice towards his people. From his jail cell he wrote his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," explaining his goal of creating nonviolent social change which launched the movement worldwide.

## ☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Read "Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Discuss why this letter became so famous. Read *An Easy Burden* (chapters 9-10 and *Fulfilling Martin's Dream* (page 78.) Have students act this story out as a play. Facilitate a dialogue before and after the play. Brainstorm the qualities of leadership and create a "mind-map" of its various aspects. Develop an essay entitled: What makes a person a good leader? Identify people in your community who attended the March on Washington. Invite them to share their experience with students at an assembly on January 15th.

## ☀ Social Studies : Diversity

Study and make a time-line of the early slave trade, the Black Passage, the Underground Railroad, the civil war, the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964, the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Watch the movie/ read the book, *Amistad and Mississippi Burning*. Have a dialogue. Read *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action* (pp. 115-144 about the experience of anti-war protesters. Have students write a report about one person who inspired them. Read *Wind in the* to learn how John Lewis became a U.S. congressman.

## ☀ Community Service : Service Learning

The King Holiday in January is now a national day of service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives. Create a special event in your community to bring diverse people together. To learn more, check our book's Resource Section. Dr. King studied with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Invite a speaker from their Racial Dialogue and Reconciliation Program speak at a community event to encourage racial harmony in your school, community and your world.

