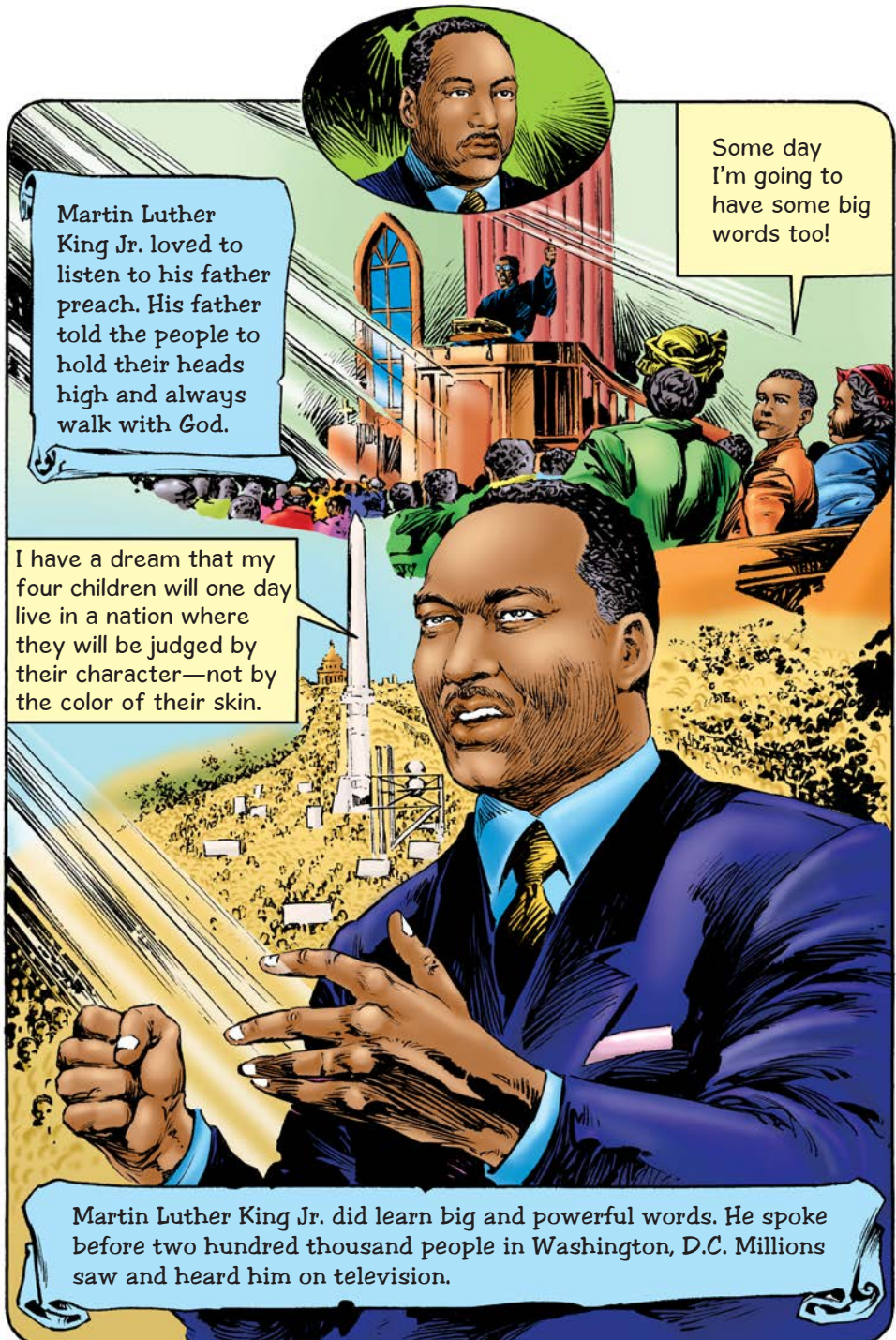


GRAPHIC  
BIOGRAPHY

# Martin Luther King Jr.





Martin Luther King Jr. loved to listen to his father preach. His father told the people to hold their heads high and always walk with God.

Some day I'm going to have some big words too!

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged by their character—not by the color of their skin.

Martin Luther King Jr. did learn big and powerful words. He spoke before two hundred thousand people in Washington, D.C. Millions saw and heard him on television.



## Chapter I The Early Years

Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was minister of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Most of the time, Martin or M.L. as he was called, played well with his brother and sister.



Their parents often told them that there was nothing more important than loving one another.

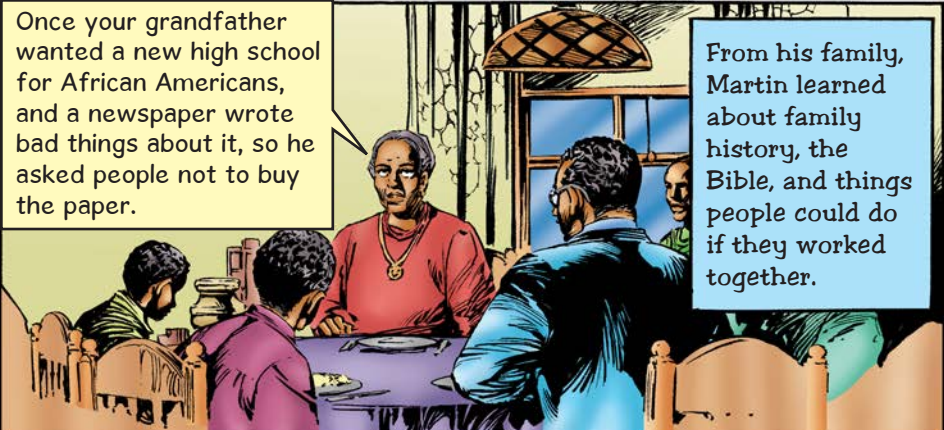
Why do you work?

To buy books. We have to earn our own spending money.



From the time he could lift papers, Martin delivered the *Atlanta Journal*.

Once your grandfather wanted a new high school for African Americans, and a newspaper wrote bad things about it, so he asked people not to buy the paper.



From his family, Martin learned about family history, the Bible, and things people could do if they worked together.

Martin was six when learned about prejudice. His mother comforted him.

Always remember you are as good as anyone.

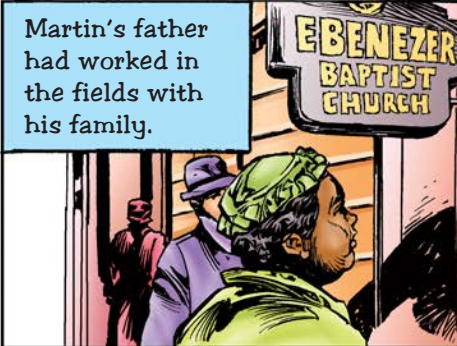


His white friend's mother had told Martin that he was no longer welcome because he was an African American.



Martin's mother told him about slavery and how hard life had always been for Black people in this country.

Martin's father had worked in the fields with his family.



At sixteen he went to Atlanta to work in a railroad yard. For years he worked during the day and went to school at night. He finally became a minister.



Let's see your license, boy.

I am a man. This is a boy.



You must sit in the back.

If you cannot wait on us here, we do not want to buy.



Martin's father was not afraid to speak up.



Martin went to a public speaking contest. Because the bus was crowded he was ordered to give up his seat. At first Martin didn't budge.

Move back or I'll call the police.

Martin had to stand for almost two hours. He felt it was unfair.

At fifteen, he entered Morehouse College.



At seventeen, Martin preached his first sermon. At eighteen he was made assistant pastor. At nineteen he graduated from college.

In 1948 Martin went to Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. There were only six African Americans in a class of one hundred.

This is hard to believe—eating in a white restaurant!

Not all places in the North admit African Americans.



In 1951 Martin Luther King Jr. received his master's degree from Crozer and a scholarship to Boston University. He met Coretta Scott in Boston.

Coretta Scott's father had worked and built a fine sawmill.

I'm sorry but the mill is not for sale.

Well, it won't do you any good!



The next Sunday, while the Scotts were at church, the sawmill burned down.

Like Martin, Coretta also had learned early what it meant to be Black.

Why do we have to walk?

Never mind. Let's sing while we walk.



Later, Coretta went on to Antioch College in Ohio.

She sang well and won a scholarship to the New England Conservatory of Music.



If you keep the fifth floor clean, I will give you your room and breakfast.

I want a career in music.

I want a beautiful wife with a beautiful voice. You!



Quiet Coretta fell in love with outgoing Martin. She knew his wishes would always come first.



But now ... three people had different dreams of the future.

Martin and I will live in the North, so I can sing.



Martin will preach in Atlanta with me.



Coretta and I will live in the South. I will have my own church.



On June 18, 1953, Martin Luther King Jr. married Coretta Scott in Alabama.



Will they return to Boston?

Yes. Coretta will continue her voice training, and Martin will work for his doctorate.



When he was twenty-five, Martin became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Church in Montgomery, Alabama.



I'm proud that you have your own church.

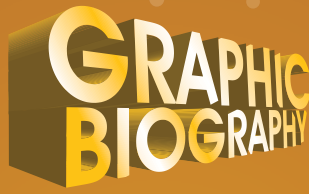
I'll be proud when you sing solos here.

In Montgomery, Martin met the Reverend Ralph Abernathy.



We are so different. You love to study.

You are full of fun. I need your friendship.



## — TITLES IN THIS SERIES —

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Marie Curie  
Walt Disney  
Amelia Earhart  
Thomas Edison  
Albert Einstein  
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