



## ***Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You***

### A Choral Reading

Adapted from the book by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by James Ransome

**NOTE:** This may be read aloud as a class or staged with movement, props, music and multimedia. More than 2 voices may be used. The movements, props and musical selections are optional. You may pick the scenes to dramatize and how many actors to include in each scene. You could even pair the reading with a live paint or quick draw of a mural. Actors may be any gender. As a multimedia backdrop, you may use images found in the book or online at digital archives such as the Library of Congress. Lyrics and recordings of songs can be found online.

**More lesson ideas -- <http://cbweatherford.com>**

Chorus/All	Voice 1	Voice 2	Movement/Props/Music
You can be a King.			
	Marvel at Creation.		
		Keep the faith of your ancestors.	Shake tambourine, clap hands and shout "Amen!"
You can be a King.			
	Know that bigotry hurts.		Marchers carry "Equal Rights" picket signs.
		Remember how you felt when treated unfairly.	Actor is crying.
You can be a King.			
	Admit that you've done wrong.		
		Just say, "I'm sorry," and mean it.	
You can be a King.			
	Know that dividing walls should come down.		2 actors hold poster of door with "Whites Only" sign.

		You have glimpsed the other side.	Actor punches first through whites only sign as if busting down a door.
You can be a King.			
	Break the chains of ignorance.		
		Learn as much as you can.	Actors read books and carry notebooks.
You can be a King.			
	Stand for peace.		
		Band together against bullies.	Actors lock arms and face one actor playing the bully.
You can be a King.			
	Sing a song of freedom.		
		<i>Keep your eyes on the prize; hold on.</i>	Actor looks up and into the distance. Sing or play: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize
You can be a King.			
	Stamp out hatred.		
		Put your foot down and walk tall.	Actors put hands on hips and stamp feet.
You can be a King.			
	Answer your critics.		
		Believe in your cause and state it plainly.	Actor does pantomime of a speaker or preacher.
You can be a King.			
	Have a dream.		
		Make yours great enough to grow into.	Actor wears grown up clothes reflecting his or her dream career.

You can be a King.			
	Make the world take notice.		
		Do your very best at whatever you do.	Actor does a fancy dance move.
You can be a King.			
	Beat the drum for justice.		
		March to your own conscience.	Actor beats a drum. Others march
You can be a King.			
	Lift up the less fortunate.		
		Be the King or Queen of Help.	
			Actor holds a Red Cross sign. An older acrot helps a younger one in some way.
You can be a King.			
	Set your sights on the mountaintop.		
		Climb a little higher every day.	
			Sing "We Shall Overcome."