



DESCRIBE YOUR HERO

This is a fitting lesson to teach around Martin Luther King Jr. Day but can certainly be taught any time of the year. For the writing lesson, I really wanted to touch upon some of the issues that Martin Luther King Jr. taught and stood for.

Here are the steps for the lesson:

1. Read the baby book *10 Little Fingers and 10 Little Toes*. Reiterate the message of the story that regardless of where we are born or what we look like, we all share the same human traits and needs.
2. Explain that mistreatment of any one person or people group is wrong.
3. Give each student a magazine picture of a person or group of people. Use pictures of people of various races and ages.
4. Have each student try to tell the name, age, job and interest of the person in the picture to the whole group. A point is usually made when students can't really do it. They only see a picture. They can't hear anything the person is thinking or saying.
5. Explain that pre-judging someone based on what they see is called prejudice. Blacks were pre-judged for their skin color and experienced unequal treatment. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for equal treatment for African-American people and became a hero for it!
6. As a group, think about and brainstorm traits that make a hero, listing words and phrases under the following categories:

Adjectives

Actions

Spoken Words

7. Explain to the students that they are going to write a descriptive piece about a person they consider a hero in their own lives.
8. Show the 5 sections:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Adjective and actions
 - c. Adjective and spoken words
 - d. Specific story
 - e. Conclusion

Now to write!

9. Write an introductory statement that mentions Martin Luther King Jr. and introduces your own hero.
Martin Luther King Jr. is a hero to many people. I have a hero too. His/her name is _____.
10. Describe the person by using an adjective and then listing actions that support the adjective.
(name) is (adjective). He/She (list a series of actions).
11. Describe the person by using an adjective and then listing things that the person often says.
(name) is (adjective). I often hear him/her saying things like, "list a series of spoken words."
12. Tell a short story of how the person impressed or inspired you.
One day,...
13. Write a conclusion using 1-2 sentences.
I am thankful for people in the world like my grandfather (or name the person).