

Name _____

Date _____



May I Quote You, Dr. King?

Quotation marks are used to set off exact words that are spoken. Read the sentences below. To determine where the quotation marks should go, underline the speaker's exact words. Next, place quotation marks before and after the underlined portion of text.

1. Some of young Martin's friends were white. One day the mother of two of his friends told them, You can't be friends anymore because Martin is black, and you are white.
2. Martin ran home crying. He asked his mother, Why can't I be their friend?
3. His mother rocked him in her arms and said, Now that school is starting, you can no longer be friends. You have to go to a school for black children.
4. She explained to Martin that many white people thought they were better than black people. Martin said through his tears, But that's not the truth.
5. No, it isn't, my child, said his mother.
6. One day Martin went to a store with his father. They waited for the clerk. The clerk said in a hushed voice, I'll gladly wait on you if you'll just move to the back of the store.
7. Martin's father responded, You'll either wait on us sitting here, or we'll go to another store.
8. As they left the store, Martin asked his father, Why was that man mean to us? We just wanted to buy some shoes.
9. Martin's father explained, It is because of segregation. Separating black people because of color is not a law. It is a custom that is wrong and cruel, and I'll always fight against it.
10. Tears once again flooded young Martin's eyes. He told his father, I'll stand up and fight against segregation too.
11. One day, as Martin was listening to his father preach in church, he said, Just wait and see. I'm going to grow up and use big words to fight unfair customs.
12. Martin did use big words. More importantly, his big words were peaceful words. One time Martin said, If you have weapons, take them home. We cannot solve this problem through violence. We must meet our white brothers' hate with love.
13. Some of the most famous words of Dr. King came as he stood in front of a crowd in Washington, DC. He said, I have a dream that one day, on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.
14. At Martin's funeral, a friend of his said, The cemetery is too small for his spirit, but we commit his body to the ground.



Answer Key: On the back of this sheet, write a paragraph describing what you think the words of Dr. King's friend mean.

