

# Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech

After listening to the speech, answer the following questions:

1. What are some key lines that Martin Luther King, Jr. repeats? (highlight or underline them)
2. Why do you think he repeats these lines?
3. Which parts stuck out or struck you the most?



Portions of "I Have a Dream"	Interpret the meaning
<p>I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.</p> <p>I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.</p> <p>I have a dream today.</p> <p>I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.</p> <p>I have a dream today...</p> <p>And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!</p> <p>Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.</p> <p>And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"</p>	<p>What is MLK quoting from? Why do you think he is quoting this document?</p> <p>What might he be referring to in Mississippi?</p> <p>What do you think this line about his children might mean to other African-Americans who are listening to this?</p> <p>What is occurring in Alabama that he is referencing here.</p> <p>Compare the states he mentions at the beginning (New Hampshire – California) of the section with those he mentions at the end (Georgia – Mississippi). What is the significance of the phrase "but not only that"?</p> <p>What do you think is the significance of mentioning the lines from this Negro spiritual?</p>