More Than a Dream

Pre-reading

Questions:
- What do you know about Martin Luther King, Jr.?

 Definitions:
- Judge – to form an opinion about
- Content – what is inside
- Character – what a person is really like, as shown by the way he or she thinks, talks, or acts
- Racism – unfair treatment of people based on the belief that one race is better than another

Reading

I Have a Dream

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.
I have a dream today!
I have a dream that one day… little black boys and girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers.
I have a dream today!

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1963

Martin Luther King, Jr. did more than dream. He worked very hard to make his dream come true. He talked with leaders about the unfair treatment of black people. He gave speeches to huge crowds. He stressed that we should judge people by their actions and words, not by their skin color. His message was clear. Black, white, or brown – all should be treated equally. Black families suffered from racism. They were forced to sit at the back of city buses. They could not use the same bathrooms as white people. They were sometimes beaten, just because of their skin color.

Martin Luther King, Jr. listened to their stories. He gave them hope. He worked to make changes in the law. He did much more than dream!
Understanding

1. What was the name of Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous speech? ______________________________
                                                                                                  
2. When did he give this speech? ________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                  
3. What are some examples of racism? ____________________________________________________________
                                                                                                  
                                                                                                  
4. How did Martin Luther King, Jr. work for change? _____________________________________________
                                                                                                  
                                                                                                  
                                                                                                  
5. Do you think Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream has come true? Why or why not? ________________
                                                                                                  
                                                                                                  
                                                                                                  
Writing

Choice A: Write about Martin Luther King Jr. and the work he did.

Choice B: Write about your own experiences with racism.