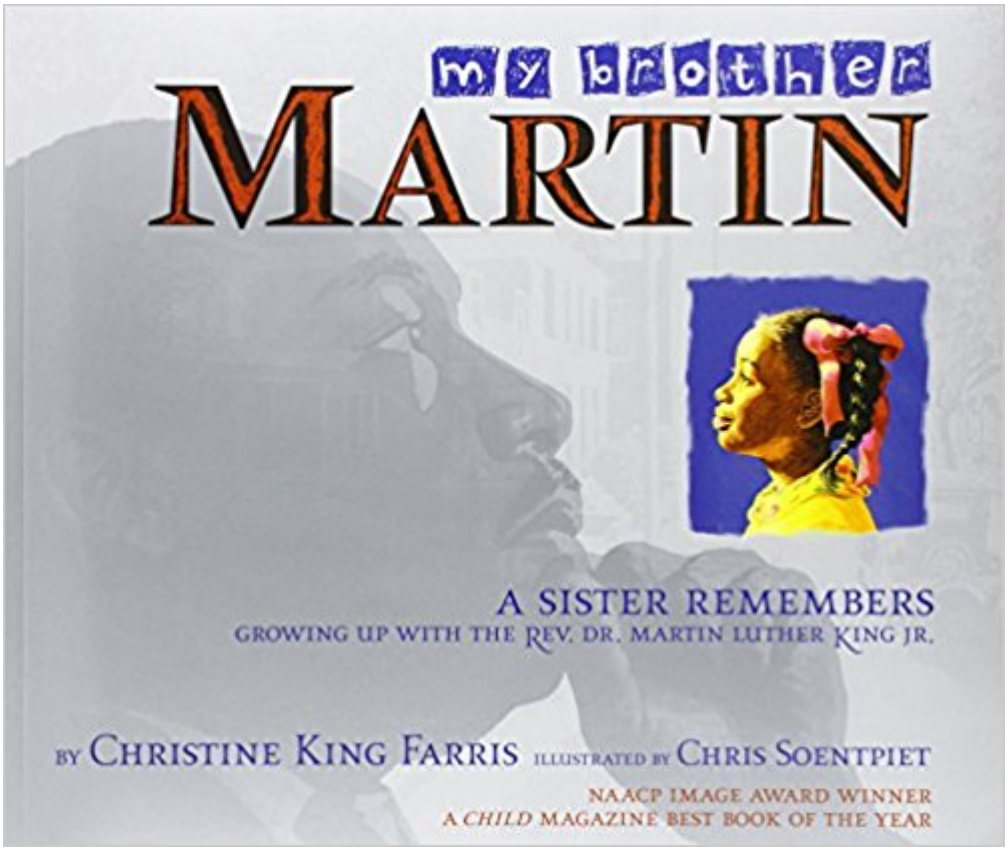
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My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up With The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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Synopsis

"Mother Dear, one day I'm going to turn this world upside down." Long before he became a world-famous dreamer, Martin Luther King Jr. was a little boy who played jokes and practiced the piano and made friends without considering race. But growing up in the segregated south of the 1930s taught young Martin a bitter lesson -- little white children and little black children were not to play with one another. Martin decided then and there that something had to be done. And so he began the journey that would change the course of American history.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 11 years

Grade Level: 1 - 6

Customer Reviews

Farris's stirring memoir of her younger brother "M.L." focuses on a pivotal moment in their childhood in Atlanta. The conversational narrative easily and convincingly draws readers into the daily life of Christine and her two brothers, M.L. and A.D., as they listen to their grandmother's stories, stage pranks and romp in the backyard with two white brothers from across the street. The adults in the King family-Daddy, a minister; Mother Dear, a musician; maternal grandparents (the grandfather is also a minister) and a great-aunt-try to shield the children from the overt racism of the times; the family rarely took streetcars, for example, because of "those laws [segregation], and the indignity that went with them." When the white boys announce one day that they cannot play with M.L. and

A.D. because they are "Negroes," the young Kings are hurt and baffled. Mother Dear explains, "[Whites] just don’t understand that everyone is the same, but someday, it will be better." M.L. replies, "Mother Dear, one day I’m going to turn this world upside down." Soentpiet (Dear Santa, Please Come to the 19th Floor) illustrates this exchange with a powerful watercolor portrait of mother and son that encapsulates many emotions, including hope, pain and love. Unfortunately, in other paintings, the characters often seem frozen in exaggerated poses, or minor figures are rendered with less skill than demonstrated elsewhere. These inconsistencies detract from an otherwise gripping volume that makes the audience aware that heroes were once children, too. All ages. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 2-4-In the straightforward style of a master storyteller, Farris recalls the birth of her two younger brothers and relates anecdotes that demonstrate both the mischievous exploits of the siblings and the love and understanding that permeated the close-knit multigenerational family in which they grew up. Using plain language, she describes conditions in the South during her childhood that separated blacks and whites- "Because they just don’t understand that everyone is the same, but someday, it will be better." From their father’s church sermons and his actions when confronting the hatred and bigotry, the children learned the importance of standing up for justice and equality. The warmth of the text is exquisitely echoed in Soentpiet’s realistic, light-filled watercolor portraits set in the King home, in their Atlanta neighborhood, and at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The simple directness of this short biography will help young children understand the concept of segregation and the importance of Dr. King’s message. An appended poem by Mildred D. Johnson reflects Farris’s own message: "-it is important for young people to realize the potential that lies within each of them-." This outstanding book belongs in every collection.Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OHCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I bought this book to give to my 9 year old grandson for Christmas. It came yesterday and I was curious to see if I could learn anything I didn’t already know about Martin Luther King. It was very interesting and written to encourage children to live and work to achieve their dreams. Such an enjoyable and easy read. Very well written.

the book was in excellent condition.

This book is a personal account by Dr. King's sister about growing up with the future trailblazer. It is an easy read aloud, and informative. Good primary source and a great starting place for some good prewriting activities, as well as more detailed writing activities. Nice book.

Awesome book!

Love the story line message and illustrations! A great teaching tool! It helps the children develop a sense of empathy, as they can relate to the love between a brother and sister/ family.

Thought provoking, well written and leads to many great lessons for all grades. My students were all chiming in while I read the poem at the end.

Excellent information from a sister's perspective. Yet, this book is written simply enough that my second grade children understood it.

This book was an excellent resource for my elementary class when studying Martin Luther King Jr. It was also written by his sister which gives kids a first hand account of what he was like. The illustrations in this book are fabulous as well!

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