

Strategic Literacy Course PreAssessment

In your social studies class, the teacher asks you to read independently a brief article called "Dr. King Gets a Prize and Goes to Jail." After you read the article, you'll be asked to explain some of its main ideas to a friend.

First: What do you think you might already know about an article from a social studies class called "Dr. King Gets a Prize and Goes to Jail"? List this prior knowledge here. (As you are reading, you might write a note next to any part in the article where you use your prior knowledge to understand the article.)

I already know who dr. king is and

I already know what a jail is.

Second: What do you expect to learn or find out by reading this article?

I expect to learn about what Dr. King did to go to jail. Cuz it wouldn't just say he is in jail



Text of article

Your thoughts as you read

**Dr. King Gets a Prize and Goes to Jail**

Martin Luther King, Jr., was in the hospital. He wasn't seriously ill; it was a case of exhaustion. It was Tuesday and he'd given three speeches on Sunday and two on Monday. And there were all those trips to jail, and the marches, and the pressures. But when the phone rang, he felt a whole lot better. Matter of fact, he felt great.

His wife, Coretta, had big news: Martin had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. That prize is given each year to the person, from anywhere in the world, who has contributed most to peace. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 35, was the youngest person ever to receive it.

Some Americans were furious, and they wrote to the Nobel committee in Sweden and told them so. Bull Connor said, "They're scraping the bottom of the barrel." But most Americans were proud. Newspaper columnist Ralph McGill, writing in the *Atlanta Constitution*, said Europeans understood King better than most Americans. They saw in him "the American promise," with its message for the whole world.

King flew to Europe to receive the Peace Prize. He invited his parents, his wife, and 25 friends to go with him. The Nobel chairman awarded him the Prize and said that King was "the first person in the Western world to have shown us that a struggle can be waged without violence."

He was soon back in America—and in jail again. He was in Selma, Alabama, trying to help black citizens vote. Martin Luther King, Jr., marched with 250 citizens who wanted to register to vote. They were all thrown in jail. King, too.

When they heard of Dr. King's arrest, 500 schoolchildren marched to the courthouse. They were arrested. Two days later 300 more schoolchildren were arrested. The

~~How~~  
~~How did Dr. King~~

I wanna know what year it is.

• How come he didn't win more than one prize.

• Why did his message go worldwide.

• Why did he have to go to Europe.

• I wanna know why were they thrown in jail

evening television news covered it all.

King wrote a letter from jail. He said, "This is Selma, Alabama. There are more Negroes in jail with me than there are on the voting rolls. Fifteen congressmen came to Selma. They announced that "new legislation is going to be necessary." President Johnson held a press conference and said, "All Americans should be indignant when one American is denied the right to vote."

Coretta Scott King went to the jail to visit her husband. She brought a message from Malcolm X, who was also in Selma. Malcolm, a black leader who was electrifying urban audiences with hard facts and a spirit of militancy, had been invited to Selma by black leaders. His ideas were different from King's. Malcolm had never recognized the power and force of nonviolent action. But Malcolm seemed to be heading in a new direction. He told Coretta, "I want Dr. King to know that I didn't come to Selma to make his job difficult." Then he added, "If the white people realize what the alternative is, perhaps they will be more willing to hear Dr. King."

The alternative was violence. Speaking to a big crowd at a church in Selma, Malcolm said, "White people should thank Dr. King for holding people in check, for there are others who do not believe in these nonviolent measures."

• It's cool how they all got arrested for peace.

• Why did the president go to Selma.

• What did Malcolm X go there too.

• We should be grateful that there is no segregation.

You've been asked to **share a summary** of this article with a friend. What would you tell him or her?

That Martin King Jr. went to great lengths just to desegregate America.

After reading the article, what do you **still want to know**? What are you curious about?

I wanna know why all of a sudden the president just wanted to help out.

Was there any place in the article where you **got lost or confused**? What did you do to try to make sense of what you were reading?

Make a mental ~~pic~~ picture so i could see what he saw.

Look back at **your predictions and expectations** from the first page of this activity. Did you learn what you expected to learn? Explain.

Yes because it tells you why  
he went to jail. ~~and~~

What did you like about reading this article? What did you not like?

I liked how all this happened.  
I didn't like why he went to  
jail.

Is there **anything else** you would like to share about this article or how you read it?

No not really.