

The reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. The motivating and inspiring Dr. King lived as a boy in Atlanta, Georgia, when segregation was supported by laws and inequality was a way of life for people of color. Dr. King grew up to be a hero to African Americans and all Americans across the country in his fight for freedom for all. He lived his life teaching about the importance of equality and acceptance. Dr. King traveled around the United States organizing marches, joining peaceful protests, and speaking to thousands about the importance of racial equality. He shared his feelings and thoughts with the world because he knew something had to be done. His leadership contributed to the overall success of everyone being respected and recognized. Dr. King had a long and tough road ahead of him, but believed he could change history.

Dr. King's vision of what our society looks like today would be very similar to his hopes and dreams for America during his time. I believe that Dr. King would be proud of the changes in laws and rights for people of color. Dr. King's work started so much acknowledgement and appreciation for the need for racial equality. Two great changes that Dr. King's work impacted were his help in passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Although these two laws were historic changes to equality in America, I think Dr. King would feel that more work still needs to be done for all people to feel free from prejudice. We can work toward realizing his dream by continuing to learn and teach others about the importance of not judging one another by race, religion, or nationality. We still struggle as a nation with racial equality to this day. But thanks to Dr. King, we know that

great change is possible because as Dr. King once preached, "*We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself...*".

Someone who inspires me to take action toward accomplishing Dr. King's dream is the intelligent and inspirational Amanda Gorman. Amanda Gorman is an African American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, and race. Amanda was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate because she was chosen to speak at the inauguration of the president Joe Biden in 2021. She spread around purpose and conviction with every word of her powerful message. She fills her books and poems with passion and substance. She is a young woman and she already is the best-selling author in America. In Dr. In King's time an African American person even writing a book, wouldn't be possible. Amanda inspires me because she is a young woman and a person of color who was given the opportunity to speak to our nation about such important topics. Amanda shows that words lead to actions and that can change the world. She is an example of what is possible because of the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

