

MLK Jr. Story

To be **equal** means to be the same. No two people are ever the same. But all people should be treated the same. All people should be treated fairly.

When Martin was growing up in the south, blacks were not treated the same as white people. They were not treated fairly. For example:

Black people could not eat in the same restaurants as white people.



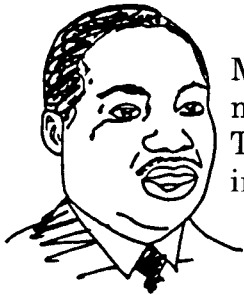
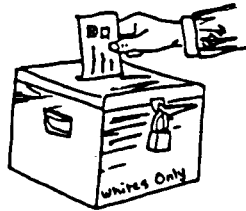
Black children could not go to school with white children.



Black people had to give their seats to white people on buses and trains.



Black people could not vote.



Martin Luther King, Jr., spent his whole life trying to make things better for his people. Slowly, the laws changed. That made some white people very angry. He was even put in jail. But he never stopped working.



Then, in 1968, he went to Memphis, Tennessee, to march with underpaid workers. When he stepped out onto the balcony of his motel room, James Earl Ray saw him and fired his gun. Martin Luther King, Jr., died that day. It was April 4th.



His birthday, January 15th, is now a national holiday. On that day every year, we celebrate him and all he did for Americans, both black and white. He hoped that someday all people would be treated equally in this country. We must continue his work and make that dream come true.

