



THE FLIPSIDE



Our Children Can Soar by Michelle Cook

Our ancestors fought...

George invented...

Jesse sprinted...

Hattie starred...

Jackie scored...

Ella sang...

Rosa sat...

Ruby learned...

Martin marched...

Thurgood ruled...

Barack ran...

So our children can soar!

And higher and faster and stronger they go!

ASSIGNMENT: What does Our Children Can Soar mean to you?

What inspired me about the book Our Children Can Soar was that I never knew all these African Americans accomplished all these things! George, Jesse, Hattie, Jackie, Ella, Rosa, Ruby, Martin, Thurgood, and Barack all accomplished something. They all might have followed their dreams.

DANIEL SHENKELMAN *Second Grade*

I think the author of Our Children Can Soar was trying to show that all of these African Americans worked so hard that we should follow their steps. Also, I think the author was trying to show all of the African Americans did great things because they kept trying. The author used a lot of expressive verbs because the African Americans accomplished a lot of great things because they had a dream. And that's how our ancestors fought.

SARI STRIZIK *Second Grade*

I think Our Children Can Soar means that African Americans can do whatever whites can do. Before Jackie Robinson was on the Dodgers, there were only whites. Now Jackie showed African Americans they could be on baseball teams. Barack Obama is the first African American president in the U.S.A., and now he shows people that blacks can be president too. Now there is no segregation or discrimination because of Martin Luther King, Jr. He ended it with his speeches. He did it with his words and nonviolence, not war and fighting. He did it with love, not hate.

PETER SAVRIDES *Second Grade*

Our ancestors fought so George Carver could invent. George Carver invented so Jesse Owens could sprint. Jesse sprinted so Hattie could star. Jackie scored so Ella could sing. Ella sang so Rosa could sit. Rosa sat so Ruby could learn. Ruby learned so Martin could march. Martin marched so Thurgood could rule. Thurgood ruled so Barack could run. Barack ran for peace and good will so our children can soar to see other people and learn about all the generations. The African American people reached their dreams, and children can also achieve their dreams. I think that there should be no segregation or discrimination. I think there should be civil rights and peace.

TEAGAN VAUGHN *Second Grade*

ASSIGNMENT: What would Martin Luther King, Jr. think if he was alive today.

I think that Martin Luther King, Jr. would be happy because there are no "whites only" signs. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be proud because his speech changed the laws. But he would be angry because there is no world peace.

CHRISTOPHER BENINCASE *Second Grade*

I think that if Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today, he would think of the world as a very nice place because there is no segregation and black and white people can be together at school and at home.

PIERCE THOMPSON *Second Grade*

ASSIGNMENT: On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Write about a dream that you have for the world right now and in the future.

I have a dream today that my children will be great to everyone. Nobody should be judged, even my children. If my children are judged, they do not have the right to judge that person back. When they grow up and make a speech like this, it might be a struggle but I'm sure they can do it. And when they grow up, they deserve peace. They should never discriminate against anybody, even if they were discriminated against. I have a dream today.

TYLER BONNER *Second Grade*

I have a dream that people don't have to fight with violence but use words instead of killing hundreds of people every day. Wars never end because hate can't draw out hate, but love can. So people don't have to fight with guns and cannons for years. So people don't have to risk their lives to save their country. So armies don't have to kill millions of people every year for freedom for their country or for leadership of the world. So we can end war.

MATTHEW TALLO *Second Grade*

I have a dream that one day magic will be invented. Twenty bucks for a sparkle that lasts a lifetime. The magic would not respond if it had to do with hurting someone or something. Your sparkle would include a handbook that answers your questions personally and your spirit. One sparkle could stop war and make peace. How does all of this work? Well, first you get a cup of water, then drop it inside. Then you drink it in three gulps. Then your magic will start to work. My sparkle gave me a peacock spirit and powers like a sorceress. Your costume will be based on your spirit. Mine is a green velvet top, a skirt made from peacock feathers, two shoes with a spot from a peacock feather on each one, and my hair was pulled back by a spot too. My wand was a dove feather. Everyone would have civil rights and peace.

AYLA LERNER *Second Grade*