

“I Have a Dream” Speech by Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK)

This speech is one of the most famous speeches of all time. We often hear how Dr. King was a dynamic speaker but it is just not how he said things but what he said that was important. This speech is carefully crafted. We need to look at its **STRUCTURE**.

Discussion: Near the end of the speech, Dr. King says Let freedom ring from... and fills in the blank w/ various states. Are these states listed in random order? If not, explain the progression. Why do you think he lists the states in this order?

NOTE: IF you find and LABEL the **MAXIM**, you will get **EXTRA CREDIT**.
Reminder: a MAXIM is a BRIEF general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct. It is often (but not always) a nugget of wisdom. On the text of the speech I provide a hint about what page you can find it at.

1. King also uses lots and lots of metaphors! Underline FOUR or more **metaphors** and label them.
2. Instead of just stating a simple metaphor, sometimes he goes on to develop and expand on the comparison or image using multiple sentences to show how the two seemingly unlike things are actually very similar. This is called an **EXTENDED METAPHOR**. Underline the extended metaphor and label it in the margin. This is OVER AND ABOVE the 4 examples above.
3. He also used **ALLITERATION** (the repetition of the same sound at the beginning of a word). Furry Friends is an example of alliteration. It does NOT need to be a tongue twister to be alliteration. Find TWO examples of alliteration, underline it, and label it in the margin.
4. **REPETITION** is often used for emphasis. What phrase is repeated over and over? Underline ONE phrase that is repeated.

5. Find an example PARALLEL words, phrases, or clauses. SEE a definition AND examples of this at the end of the copy of the "I Have a Dream Speech I provided." FIND and LABEL a the example **PARALLEL STRUCTURE**.
6. **DICTION (otherwise known as WORD CHOICE)** is very important when a writer or speaker is trying to evoke emotion. They often use powerful emotional words. In this case he uses contrasting images (ones that are very positive as well as those that are quite dark). Find an example of POSITIVE EMOTIONAL words and NEGATIVE EMOTIONAL words, underline at least TWO of each and label them.
7. An **ALLUSION** is a reference to another well known story, text, character, etc. Example: He was like the boy who cried wolf. Martin Luther King makes an allusion to a famous song. Find and label it.
8. **THEME** - ALL of these style choices help make the speech poetic and powerful. However, the most important thing is the actual message of the speech. Therefore, we need to articulate the THEME of the speech. There are a few possible themes for this reading. A theme is a GENERAL life lesson that we can apply to our own lives. Examples from *Romeo and Juliet* might be: don't act impulsively, it is better to make peace than continue conflicts, etc. A theme is NEVER just one word like love or hate or peace. Instead, tell us WHAT is being said about love? The theme from Beatles "Love is All You Need Song" is very different than the theme from the song "Love Stinks."

Themes do NOT mention specifics from the text but are stated in general terms:

List TWO THEMES from the "I Have a Dream" speech. **WRITE the two themes on the BACK of the actual speech that you have marked up.**

Be sure to NEATLY write your full names and hour on the top of the speech

