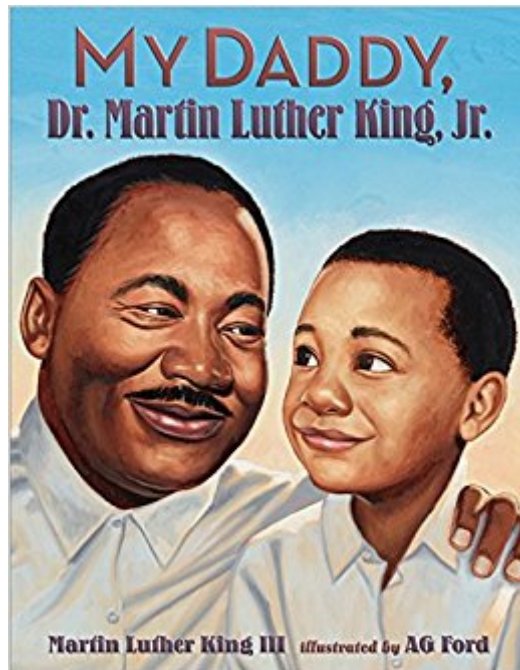




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# My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Synopsis

What was it like growing up as a son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? This picture book memoir, *My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Martin Luther King III, provides insight into one of history's most fascinating families and into a special bond between father and son. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King III was one of those four little children mentioned in Martin Luther King's groundbreaking "I Have a Dream" speech. In this memoir, Martin Luther King Jr.'s son gives an intimate look at the man and the father behind the civil rights leader. Mr. King's remembrances show both his warm, loving family and a momentous time in American history. AG Ford is the illustrator of several other books for children, including the New York Times bestselling *Barack*. He is the recipient of an NAACP Image Award.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD680L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #439,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists #403 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #617 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 King's remembrance of his father is an intimate introduction to the civil rights leader, revealing happy family moments as well as fear and personal pain amid the turbulence engulfing the nation in the 1960s. Kids will enjoy and perhaps identify with the playful interactions

between “Marty” and his dad, who would put his son on top of the refrigerator and then catch him in his arms. Contrasting such warm memories are those of the King children hearing on the radio about their father’s arrest and enduring bigotry at their new, integrated school. King’s son is frank about the ugly clashes of the Civil Rights Movement, but he writes about them in an age-appropriate manner. The style is simple and conversational, as though the author were chatting with readers, reinforcing the personal spirit of the book. His effort to share some of the legendary leader’s life as a private citizen makes his father approachable and real, a nice beginning to the relationship students will have with the influential man in their American history classes. It also provides an important firsthand account of the agony and frustration of prejudice experienced by many African American families. Ford’s artwork is laudable, but in some illustrations, the heads of Dr. King and his wife are disproportionately large and oddly rendered. Overall, though, the forthrightness of Ford’s palette and technique complement the text.

—Alyson Low, Fayetteville Public Library, AR (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

This picture-book biography, written by the second child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., offers an intimate portrait of his father and some family stories from their unusual household. In the opening scene, his father explains to Marty and his sister that their family won’t be going to Funtown because it’s for white people only. Later, Marty avoids identifying himself to other kids because he bears his father’s controversial name. One Christmas, he and his brother are given toy guns, but in keeping with their family’s values, they burn the guns in a bonfire. The story ends on a high note, with King and his sister entering a newly desegregated school. An appended page acknowledges his father’s death (when Marty was 10 years old) and appreciates his ongoing legacy. The figures look awkward in some of the paintings, but Ford illustrates many scenes effectively and captures likenesses of individuals. Clearly written, the book has an obviously unique perspective, and it offers insights into the period as well as King’s family life. Grades K-3. --Carolyn Phelan

Great book. Bought it to read to the first grade classroom. The bright colors and story really kept their attention.

My children and I enjoyed this intimate biography of MLK written by his son. It shows what the fight for justice was like from a child’s point of view at the time, and the portrayal of MLK is loving and

touching. This is a great way to teach social justice to children in a non-scary way. I got it because my daughter had learned about MLK in school and was impressed by what she learned, but I was surprised that in school they had NOT mentioned that he was assassinated! This book does mention that part, but again, in a non-scary way that I appreciate. "I was so young when my dad died, but I'm blessed with the memory of a warm and playful man." Everyone should be so lucky as to have experienced this kind of parent-child relationship.

I purchased this for my nephew along with other books. I think this is a great gift idea and it went over well with his parents.

While reading about the legendary Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. my daughter and I learned that his oldest son was named after him, Martin Luther King III, and I wondered what it was like being named after such a loved and hated important man of history. This book gave me some insight to that question and was also extremely touching. I'm sure if his father could read this he would be bursting with pride. A fantastic edition to any elementary school library or classroom.

Excellent read! Students loved it as well as myself!

This book opened my eyes to the man that was a father and a husband but also a strong figure in the world. This book made me think about the sacrifices made by this family so that we could have a level of freedom that we had never experienced before.... We hear a lot about Dr. King but nothing about the children who donated a father to the Civil Rights Movement. In the eyes of this 8 year old I see a Southern gentle man who loved to play with his kids and who took family time and family values seriously. I also hear the heart of a 10 year old who will forever see images and pictures and insights into the father he can no longer touch! KUDOS and much love to you Martin King III.... Your life is a legacy of a KING!

Martin Luther King III has written a wonderful book filled with history in a very relate able format. Children will relate to the stories of his family relationships while gaining important historical information.

Reflections from a son's perspective on the most prominent African American in modern times,

priceless. This book is a blessing for all that read it.

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