



Center for Civic Education

Martin Luther King Jr. and the Power of Words

Teacher Resource 1 Quotations for Introductory Activity

Robert Kennedy

All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.

It is not enough to understand, or to see clearly. The future will be shaped in the arena of human activity, by those willing to commit their minds and their bodies to the task.

Mahatma Gandhi

A man is but the product of his thoughts what he thinks, he becomes.

An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it.

Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.

It has always been a mystery to me how men can feel themselves honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings.

Che Guevara

The revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall.

Abraham Lincoln

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.

Abigail Adams

I've always felt that a person's intelligence is directly reflected by the number of conflicting points of view he can entertain simultaneously on the same topic.

I am more and more convinced that man is a dangerous creature and that power, whether vested in many or a few, is ever grasping, and like the grave, cries, 'Give, give.'

The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life no longer flow into our souls.

We are the only class in history that has been left to fight its battles alone, unaided by the ruling powers. White labor and the freed black men had their champions, but where are ours?

Dr. Seuss

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

Maya Angelou

Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.

Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning.

Gloria Steinem

We need to remember across generations that there is as much to learn as there is to teach.

From pacifist to terrorist, each person condemns violence - and then adds one cherished case in which it may be justified.

Margaret Thatcher

There can be no liberty unless there is economic liberty.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy

Bring on your tear gas, bring on your grenades, your new supplies of Mace, your state troopers and even your national guards. But let the record show we ain't going to be turned around.

Rosa Parks

At the time I was arrested I had no idea it would turn into this. It was just a day like any other day. The only thing that made it significant was that the masses of the people joined

in.

Rev. Jesse Jackson

Today's students can put dope in their veins or hope in their brains. If they can conceive it and believe it, they can achieve it. They must know it is not their aptitude but their attitude that will determine their altitude.