

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

? CHECK QUIZ

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**I HAVE A DREAM**  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Based on your knowledge of the selection, circle the letter of the response that best completes each of the statements below.

1. Dr. King alludes to
  - a. the Bill of Rights.
  - b. the Monroe Doctrine
  - c. the Emancipation Proclamation.
2. Dr. King states that in 1963 the American Negro in general is
  - a. suffering because of segregation and discrimination.
  - b. content with the racial conditions in America.
  - c. planning to leave the United States.
3. Dr. King states that the Founding Fathers gave all Americans
  - a. the right to vote.
  - b. a promissory note.
  - c. the right to own slaves.
4. The “bad check” that Dr. King mentions refers to
  - a. the national debt.
  - b. the lack of equality.
  - c. the Social Security system.
5. Dr. King states that “the whirlwinds of revolt” will continue to blow until
  - a. racial equality is attained.
  - b. the revolutionaries are imprisoned or killed.
  - c. the current government is replaced.
6. Dr. King states that white people
  - a. can all be trusted.
  - b. should all be feared.
  - c. are to be trusted or distrusted based on their actions.
7. Dr. King states that he and his followers will be satisfied
  - a. when most Negroes are employed.
  - b. when justice is available to all.
  - c. when all white people are punished.
8. Dr. King’s “dream” is that
  - a. Negroes will found a new homeland for themselves.
  - b. freedom and equality will be universal.
  - c. all white people will acknowledge their wrongdoing.

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**LITERARY CRITIQUE**

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**I HAVE A DREAM**  
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Based on your understanding of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. What are the four distinct stages into which Dr. King’s address can be divided?

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2. What does Dr. King mean by the phrase, “creative suffering”?

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3. List the literary techniques Dr. King uses effectively. Cite examples from the text.

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4. What is the climax of the speech? Explain why it is the climax.

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5. What is the effect of the mention of various geographic locations in America? Why does King choose these specific areas? Why are they mentioned in this order?

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LITERARY CRITIQUE

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**I HAVE A DREAM**  
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6. How does King's use of the word "militancy" imply a contradiction?

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7. Why does Dr. King end his speech with the words of an "old Negro spiritual"?

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READING COMPREHENSION

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**I HAVE A DREAM**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

After reading the following excerpt from “I Have a Dream,” and based on your understanding of the text, write **T** for *True* or **F** for *False* in the space provided next to each statement below. If the statement is *False*, use the space provided to rewrite the sentence so that it is correct.

In a sense we have come to our nation’s Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked “insufficient funds.” But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of Democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God’s children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Dr. King states that he has come to Washington in order to cash a check.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The phrase, “promissory note,” is used literally to refer to money owed to Dr. King.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The term, “bank of justice” is used figuratively.

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READING COMPREHENSION

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**I HAVE A DREAM**  
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\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Dr. King wants American Negroes to be tranquilized.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Dr. King states that the promises of Democracy include racial justice.

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 VOCABULARY REVIEW

**I HAVE A DREAM**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Use the words in the word bank to correctly complete each of the following sentences.

*appalling creed defaulted invigorating languishing militancy mobility prodigious*

1. One of the best ways to achieve upward \_\_\_\_\_ in society is to complete high school and go on to learn a useful skill.
2. Susan found the \_\_\_\_\_ conditions in the aftermath of the hurricane almost too much to bear, but she gathered her strength and continued to offer aid to the survivors.
3. After \_\_\_\_\_ in a prison cell for several years, Richard was released from jail when new evidence proved he was innocent.
4. When Jonathan lost his job, he \_\_\_\_\_ on his car loan, and the vehicle was repossessed after three payments were overdue.
5. In *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London, a sled dog, in a \_\_\_\_\_ show of strength, is able to drag an overloaded sled for one hundred yards.
6. The United States offers a home to anyone interested in pursuing the American Dream, regardless of that person's race, religion, or \_\_\_\_\_.
7. To achieve justice for all, civil-rights activists generally use peaceful means, avoiding \_\_\_\_\_ that would alienate others.
8. The children who had been housebound for two weeks found the fresh air to be quite \_\_\_\_\_, and they ran and played in the yard while the sun shone brightly.