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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, he said, "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." He fought for his dream, and though he was put through many struggles and even lost his life, he made America a better place today. Dr. King did not just dream, he worked very hard to achieve his goals. He was a brave man who inspired us to dream because nothing is impossible, but we have to work hard for it. I used to attend a different school. I transferred to Norton School when I moved to Cheshire in second grade. At first, I was hesitant and scared to attend my new school. You don't have a lot of confidence being small and short. I'm a 6th grader now; I am still small and short but thankfully, I met very kindhearted classmates who welcomed my arrival with open arms, and helped me get through my earlier years. I can only assume it is because my classmates also have great parents who taught them not to treat people differently just because they look different from them. I have not once felt discriminated against or mistreated. At school, our teachers not only teach us our academics and specials, they constantly teach us how to become better people. I believe this is all thanks to brave leaders like Dr. King. His impact extended far beyond the Civil Rights movement. His legacy changed America so we are not judged by the color of our skin but by our personal qualities and character.

I am 11 years old but I know that not everyone will treat me nicely just because I am kind to them. I know better. I will meet people who will not accept me for the way I look, for the color of my skin, or for who I am. The world is not a perfect place but I want to be like Dr. King and do my part to make the world a better place. Dr. King believed in fighting for what we believe in without using violence. I choose to do the same because as Dr. King said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." Many adults have asked me what I want to be when I grow up. I think my answer has changed five or six times already. At one point, I wanted to become an artist, then a fashion designer, then a writer, a doctor, and most recently, a public speaker. I want to speak up for people who may not be able to speak up for themselves. As I get older, I am sure I will change my mind many more times but one thing for sure is whatever I end up doing, I will work very hard to achieve my goals and give back to society. Dr. King believed education is key to empowering the human mind because ignorance is a dangerous thing. I couldn't agree more. He has inspired me to work hard in school, treat people with kindness, and help those less fortunate. Dr. King said we all can be great because we all can serve, "You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

