Read Aloud Guide

Title: *We March* by Shane W. Evans

Best for: K - 2

Summary: The People's March on Washington in 1963 is told through the eyes of a young black boy – he wakes up early to go with his family, and each page shows a different activities, participants, and events leading up to Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech.

Why we chose this book: Most children will know about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his "I Have a Dream" speech, but this book focuses more on the march itself – something that many students have had experience with even recently. The People's March of 1963 was about jobs and equality and the Civil Rights Act. It was a long time ago, but our country is still marching for these same issues today. We love that the book shows the People's March from the eyes of a child, and we think a lot of our students will be able to relate to it today.

Notes: This is a very short book, with simple sentences on each page. You can spend a lot of time on each page discussing what is happening and what the illustrations are showing, and asking students questions about what they see, what the characters are doing, and how the boy's feelings change throughout the story.

Central themes: justice, civil rights march, Martin Luther King, Jr., demonstration, family

Introducing the book: Most children will be familiar with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech so you can start by saying something like this:

> *"Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most amazing Black leaders our country has had, and the "I Have a Dream" speech he gave in Washington, DC at the People's March has inspired us for many years. This book is about that day, and about a young boy who goes with his family to the March and to see the speech."*

After Reading:

What are some ways people prepared to march in this book? How did they get ready? (They got dressed, they prayed, they made signs, they drove to the march.)

Why were people marching? (For justice and equality, jobs)

Have any of you been to a march lately? What were you marching for?