

MLK's Words Today Answer Key

Student interpretations will vary, but strong responses should include:

1. **Injustice anywhere...** - Unfair treatment of one group harms the whole society because justice must be universal to be real.
2. **Darkness cannot drive out darkness...** - Only kindness, empathy, and forgiveness can overcome hatred and violence, not more hatred.
3. **The time is always right...** - Doing the right thing should not be delayed; moral action is always urgent.
4. **Faith is taking the first step...** - Change often begins with small, uncertain actions guided by hope and perseverance.

Teacher's Guide

- Begin by reading each quote aloud and asking for quick, one-word reactions (e.g., "hope," "justice," "fear," "strength").
- Allow group or pair discussions before writing to deepen understanding.
- Reinforce the idea that quotes can have **multiple valid interpretations** depending on perspective.

Differentiation:

- *Grades 7-8:* Offer guiding prompts (e.g., "What does this quote tell us about kindness?").
- *Grades 9-10:* Ask students to connect quotes to real-world examples or current events.
- *Grades 11-12:* Encourage analysis of tone, diction, and deeper philosophical meaning.

Engagement Idea:

- Turn this into a "Quote Gallery Walk": display each quote around the room and have students rotate, writing short reflections.