“Forgiveness. It’s one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, to forgive. Forgive everybody.”

~ Maya Angelou

In this exploration of the "I Have a Dream" speech, Sundquist places it in the history of American debates about racial justice and demonstrates how the speech, an exultant blend of grand poetry and powerful elocution, perfectly expresses the story of African-American freedom.

Maya Angelou 1928 – 2014
An acclaimed American poet, storyteller, activist, and autobiographer, Angelou had a broad career as a singer, dancer, actress, composer, and Hollywood’s first female black director, but became most famous as a writer, editor, essayist, playwright, and poet. As a civil rights activist, Angelou worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Angelou was honored many times through her lifetime including the National Medal of Arts by President Bill Clinton in 2000.

(From the Poetry Foundation)
Frederick Douglass 1818 – 1895
Frederick Douglass, was one of the most eminent human rights leaders of the 19th century. His oratorical and literary brilliance thrust him into the forefront of the U.S. abolition movement, and he became the first black citizen to hold high rank in the U.S. government. (From Britannica.com)

Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave by Frederick Douglass; edited with an introduction by Deborah E. McDowell with notes by John Charles. E449 .D749 1999

Let the trumpet sound: a life of Martin Luther King, Jr.
by Stephen B. Oates. 1994
Although known to most for the delivery of his “I Have a Dream” address, and as the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (at age thirty-five), King in his eleven years as elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, travelled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action. Let The Trumpet Sound is the detailed examination of this life.
E185.97.K5 O18 1994


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