

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest

By: Nadia Bibbs

Maritime Academy

Teacher: Kristie Stubleski, Grade 9

*“I ain’t gone let nobody turn me roun’, turn me roun’, turn me roun’, I ain’t gone let nobody turn me roun’ I’m a’ keep on walkin’, and keep on talkin’ and marchin’ to the freedom land!”-  
Freedom Singers*

The Civil Rights Movement was a very important part of our Nation’s history! It was a time when people fought for what they believed in and stood for it. People of every skin color came together for a common cause, inequality. They marched through hot weather, raids by angry policemen, and much more harsh conditions. When they were at their lowest, and they felt as if they had nothing left, they would sing these joyful and uplifting tunes to help them keep marching. These songs kept them going and helped them maintain hope. It amazes me that a simple song could help millions march through such bleakness.

The song above was written by The Freedom Singers. It was sung as millions of people marched during the Civil Rights Movement. To me, the song above doesn’t just relate to discrimination; it relates to every situation. Let me explain to you what I mean. We all go through trials and tribulations; but it’s our job not to give up. It’s our time to fight event when we feel as though we have no more strength left. This song is a great example relating to not giving up. It says “I ain’t gone let no body turn me down.” It’s telling us that we, as people should’t let anyone discourage us and make us take our eyes off our goals and aspirations. Honestly, I think that this song should be the “theme” song of the Civil Rights Movement. Do you want to know why I feel that way? I feel that way because they didn’t anyone turn them around. They kept on pushing. They pushed until they saw results. I don’t know if you know this, but many people were beaten, abused, and killed because of their skin color. Wait, of course you know this! Well, do you think that you could keep walking to the freedom land? I mean, these people were truly strong.

The Civil Rights Movement isn’t just something for African-Americans to unite people of all skin color to be proud of; it’s something for our whole Nation to be proud of! We can all relate to it. Don’t we all want to get to that “freedom land?” Don’t we all want to be truly free and accepted? I challenge you, yeah you, to think of this song when your down to your last straw. When you have nothing left. When you think that you can’t even go on with your daily course of action.