



# **As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom**

*Richard Michelson , Raúl Colón (Illustrator)*

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Their names stand for the quest for justice and equality.

Martin grew up in a loving family in the American South, at a time when this country was plagued by racial discrimination. He aimed to put a stop to it. He became a minister like his daddy, and he preached and marched for his cause.

Abraham grew up in a loving family many years earlier, in a Europe that did not welcome Jews. He found a new home in America, where he became a respected rabbi like his father, carrying a message of peace and acceptance.

Here is the story of two icons for social justice, how they formed a remarkable friendship and turned their personal experiences of discrimination into a message of love and equality for all.

**Book Details:** Format: Hardcover Publication Date: 5/13/2008 Pages: 40 Reading Level: Age 6 and Up

## **As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom Details**

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## **From Reader Review As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom for online ebook**

### **Mary Ann says**

I liked this book - it shows, very simply, how Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel were both striving for a better, more just world. This picture book follows Martin and Abraham as children discovering the injustice in the world. But both of their fathers told them that this is not the way the world has to be - we can make it a better place. As King says, "The way things are is not the way they always have to be." And as Heschel says "Words must be followed by deeds." I would say the best audience for this would be ages 4 - 7.

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### **Mikayla Baker says**

This book starts with the story of Martin Luther King Jr. He begins as a small boy who does not think it is fair that he does not have all the same rights as WHITE people. His mom said it will be different in the next world, but he wanted it to be different now. He began going around the country speaking out. Then it goes on to tell the story of Abraham Joshua Heschel. He is a Jew living in Europe during the time of Hitler. He also believes that it is not fair and wants to do something about it. He travels to America and begins speaking out. He meets Martin Luther King Jr. and they start a march together.

I like how it takes the two stories and puts them together at the end. Even though these two come from different backgrounds they are very similar.

This book can be used in the classroom around Martin Luther King Day and also during black history month to show how they were treated.

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### **Paul Farbman says**

This is a wonderful story of both African American and Jewish civil rights. It is a 2009 winner of the Sydney Taylor award. This story follows the lives of two different American civil rights' leaders. One, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was an African American Baptist minister, and the other, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, was a Polish American immigrant.

The story begins by telling the tale of Martin's experiences with segregation in the South. It discusses how his parents' outlook guided him to become a minister and seek a better future for his people. This is paralleled by Abraham's experiences with anti-semitism and the beginning of World War II in Poland. Abraham's parents also taught him to treat all people equally and led him to become a Rabbi and a leader.

To stand up to unfair treatment of all people, Heschel and King joined together to lead a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery. They remained great friends for the rest of their lives.

This book is great for emphasizing the similarities, rather than the differences, between people.

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### **Tamika McIntosh says**

This is one of my favorite civil rights biographies. I enjoyed how it discusses both a Jewish and African American leaders activism on discrimination. It is really powerful to learn both of their stories, and for a White man to come down south to fight alongside the blacks with Dr. King. Heschel knew what it was like to be discriminated against in his home country for being Jewish, and did not approve of it happening to another group of people in America. I enjoy seeing people of different races and cultures come together and help each other. This book is a great read for children.

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### **Shelli says**

*As Good as Anybody* is a beautifully written true story about two men from different backgrounds coming together to march for equality for all; Martin Luther King, Jr. born in 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia and Abraham Joshua Heschel born in 1901 in Warsaw, Poland. Both men faced discriminated for different reasons in different parts of the world yet found friendship and respect in each other.

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### **Karen says**

Read for our study on Martin Luther King Jr. Really liked this book and learning about Abraham Joshua Heschel in it..krb 1/10/17

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### **Jon(athan) Nakapalau says**

Abraham Joshua Heschel joins Martin Luther King as both men follow the path of the 1965 civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery. Both men understand the need for different religions to walk that same path; because the forces that try block them from moving forward are unified in their hate. Valuable lessons to be learned today - now more than ever.

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### **Diana Hanke says**

This book follows the story of two distinct and unique men who eventually joined forces in an actual display against prejudice. Each man's story is presented separately with a focus on their childhood and the influence of their fathers followed by their adult life and work. These stories then culminate in a description of the march for equal rights which brought them together. Both experienced prejudice and felt a compelling need to reverse the injustice that they both experienced. The story is enhanced by illustrations with an antique appearance. "As Good as Anybody" can be used to support any study on human rights including major historical events like the Holocaust or Civil Rights Movement. It can be appreciated by all ages, and is written for grade 3 - 6.

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## **Kennedi says**

I love this book and how it shows that those most discriminated against are just like anyone else. It talks about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel and their march toward freedom. It gives children the opportunity to learn about a crucial time in our history in a simple, yet factual way. I would definitely recommend this book.

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## **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

I'd heard, of course, of Martin Luther King Jr., but was unfamiliar with Abraham Joshua Heschel. In this book, Richard Michelsen describes how the two men grew up in parallel situations and facing the same kinds of prejudice and hatred, Martin in the Jim Crow South, and Abraham in Nazi Germany. The two came together almost inevitably in 1965 in Selma, Alabama, and marched together for equal voting rights for all Americans. Michelsen's text, easy enough for beginning readers to manage on their own, flows like two streams that meet as one river at the end. My favorite line is by Abraham, who says as he marches, "This too is God's work... I feel like my legs are praying." Additional information on the last page tells what happened as a result of that march and how both of these great men died. Raul Colon's soft yellows, browns, and blues on ivory-tinted paper lend a feeling of times past that's just right for the text. A beautiful book, and highly recommended for all readers!

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## **Cindi says**

I absolutely LOVED this book. This book merges the stories of Martin Luther King Jr. with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. The first half of the book covers MLK's boyhood up to the point of his famous march. At that point, it breaks off and tells the story of Heschel. The book joins them up at the end as they marched together for a common purpose. Excellent message and illustrations.

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## **Tam says**

My 9-year-old enjoyed this book about Martin Luther King, Jr and Abraham Joshua Heschel. It was informative but told in a story rather than facts, like some other books we've read on Martin Luther King, Jr.

It starts with Martin as a young boy who is mad at everyone because of segregation but he really looked up to his father and his mother told him, "Don't you ever forget that you are just as good as anybody!"

He became a minister and told his congregation to stop riding the bus (after the experience with Rosa Parks) until they could sit wherever they wanted. The people stopped riding the bus for one year! The bus companies were losing money so the U.S. Supreme Court finally changed the law.

He organized protests and marches and put out a call for all of God's children to join with him. The story then switched over to Abraham, a Jew who lived in America but was originally from Warsaw, Poland. Abraham became a rabbi. At that time, Hitler was elected leader of Germany and Jews weren't allowed to go many places. He'd heard about people being treated fairly in America and decided to go there. Hitler invaded Poland and his mother and three sisters were killed. Abraham began marching across America speaking out

for peace and equal rights. He joined with Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 03/21/1965, in Selma, Alabama, the two men joined together in prayer with more than 3000 people cheering them on.

At the end of the story, there's a page of facts related to both men.

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### **Rachel Herrington says**

This book almost brought me to tears. It was incredibly inspirational and very moving. This book tells the story of Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel, and what they both did to make a difference in our world of segregation. Martin grew up being a black boy and not being allowed to do anything that had a sign that said "Whites only." Abraham grew up being a minority as he was a Jew. Both boys grew up thousands of miles apart, but both made a huge impact. Martin grew up to be a preacher just like his father, and started boycotts that changed laws for black peoples' rights. Abraham continued to study Jewish Law until he was kicked out of Germany when Hitler became the ruler. Signs started saying "No Jews," so he decided to leave and go to America so he could get a job and send money back to his family. Once Abraham got to America, he found out his family had been killed because they were Jews. This spurred him on to speak out against discrimination in America. He decided to join Martin in a March in Selma, and together they fought for equal rights. Four months later, the Civil Rights Act was created. This book would be great to use around Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and it would be very inspiration in that it gives a point of view from a completely different kind of person as well. I really enjoyed this book, and would definitely read it again.

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### **Lindsey says**

SYDNEY TAYLOR AWARD WINNER (2009)

Format: Picture book

Age level: Elementary

Protagonist: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel

Review:

This is a very unique story that tells of how Abraham Joshua Heschel came to the aid of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the time of the civil rights march in Selma. It begins the book with Martin as a child, and then it tells the story of Joshua as a child. It moves on to tell about their lives as grownups, up until the point where their paths cross. There are several parallels shown between the lives of the two children, which helps the reader understand what led to their eventual friendship. There is a brief Afterword following the story that lets the reader know about the end of both Heschel's and King's lives.

This was a beautiful story that skillfully wove together the similarities of being persecuted as a Jew and as an African-American. It continues to describe a friendship between two powerful, passionate men committed to finding justice for all. It's a testament to the influence of individuals as well as what can happen when both blacks and whites come together.

The pictures are made with a fuzzy look to them. To me, this made the story feel more like a memory, which I liked. There weren't a lot of facial details, but I felt that served this story well, as it was more about a group of people coming together than the accomplishments of just one person.

This book could be used to support a unit on Civil Rights, along with Freedom Walkers by Russel Freedman. It could be used in conjunction with One Thousand Tracings by Lita Judge to share some of the after-effects of World War II. It could also be used in discussions of racism, prejudice, friendship, and standing up for your beliefs.

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### **Kristine says**

This is targeted at an audience young to older, grades 1st-6th. This book tells about to great men in different parts of the world that speak and live the same dream. This will keep kids involved by how these two men end up coming together even though one has the freedom now but helps the other stand up for whats right. Sydney Taylor Book Award 2009

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