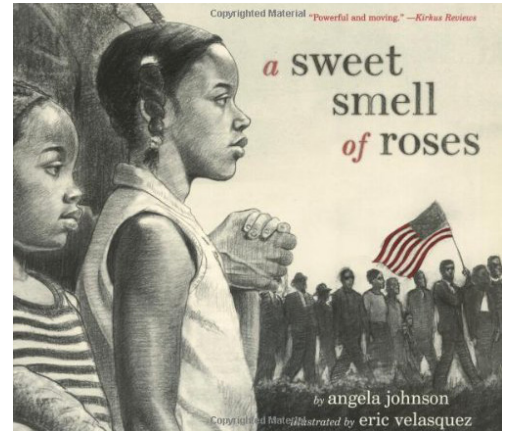


# A Sweet Smell of Roses by Angela Johnson

**Book Synopsis:** *A Sweet Smell of Roses* by Angela Johnson, with illustrations by Eric Velazquez, highlights the important, but sometimes forgotten, role of children in the American civil rights movement. This book tells the journey of two young girls joining a march in their community that is led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As the girls return home following the speech, they are inspired to fight for freedom and justice.

A recorded reading of this book is available [here](#).



## Connection to Iowa History

On January 18, 2021, the United States commemorates Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Although Dr. King was not from Iowa, he visited the state multiple times during his lifetime to speak about civil rights issues. His first trip to Iowa was in 1959, and he spoke at the University of Northern Iowa, then called Iowa State Teachers College. He and his wife, Correta, also made visits to towns like Mt. Vernon, Waterloo, Davenport, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines. King's last visit to Iowa was in 1967 when he visited [Grinnell](#).

## Storytime Activity

Doves are a symbol of peace for many different cultures. After reading the story, create a white dove out of paper plates to celebrate the inspiring words of Dr. King.

### Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Think.** The words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspired people to fight for change. Think about the change you would like to see in the world, and write your thoughts on one of the paper plates.
- 2 **Fold.** Take the paper plate with your thoughts and fold it in half with your writing hidden inside. This will create a semi-circle and will serve as the dove's body.
- 3 **Secure.** Using tape, connect the two edges of the folded paper plate together.
- 4 **Cut.** Cut the second paper plate in half. These will serve as the wings.
- 5 **Attach.** Glue or tape one half of the paper plate to each side of the semi-circle plate (the body). Vary the angle of the wings to give some dimension.
- 6 **Color.** Using markers, you could use black to color in the dove's eyes and orange to create a little beak. But feel free to use the colors you have available.
- 7 **Punch.** If you wish to hang your dove, punch a hole in a wing using a paper hole punch. Thread string through the hole and secure it with a knot.

### Materials

- Two paper plates
- Tape/glue
- Scissors
- Markers
- **Optional:** Paper hole punch; String

*Instructions continued on next page*

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## Instructions continued

- 8 Share!** After you complete your craft, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo to [museum.education@iowa.gov](mailto:museum.education@iowa.gov). We want to share your creation with others!
- 9 Questions to Spark Learning**
- The children in the story heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak. Have you ever heard someone you think is important give a speech? Who was it, and why was the message important?
  - The story describes the girls' journey through their town. What does your town look like? How does it resemble the town in the story? How is it different?
  - In what ways can children help fight for civil rights?