Name\_\_ANSWER KEY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I Have a Dream / Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. How many total years is “five score”? Who is the Great American in sentence #1?

100 years. A score is a time measurement of 20 years.

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863

1. List at least three (3) similes or metaphors used in paragraph #1.

As a great beacon light of hope

As a joyous daybreak

Seared in the flames of withering injustice

1. What two things are the life of the Negro crippled by according to Dr. King?

Segregation and discrimination

1. According to Dr. King, why are blacks gathered on this day—August 28, 1963—in Washington, D.C.?

To dramatize an appalling condition

1. Why does Dr. King say that the blacks have come to “cash a check”?

To finally receive the rights granted to them in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence

1. What two things do the “citizens of color” deserve according to Dr. King?

Freedom and justice

1. What does Dr. King mean by the phrase “the tranquilizing drugs of gradualism”?

America in 1963 was numbed by tradition. It’s time to stop living life with what we’re used to. Time itself won’t change things, and King says America cannot just take its time on this issue.

1. How does Dr. King use “summer” and “autumn” metaphorically?

The heat of discontent (summer) will continue until they are refreshed with freedom and equality (autumn – cooler temperatures).

1. Dr. King said that there would be “neither rest nor tranquility” until what happens?

“The Negro is granted his citizenship rights.”

1. How is the struggle for the “citizens of color” to be conducted?

Lawfully with dignity and discipline. King studied Gandhi’s application of nonviolent resistance that gave India independence from Britain.

1. According to Dr. King, what are some practical things in the U.S. that needed changing?

Police brutality, lodging prejudices, voting privileges

1. How does Dr. King want his four children evaluated?

By the content of their character

1. Who was the governor of Alabama when this speech was delivered? What was he proposing at the time?

George Wallace, who proposed total segregation (ex. schools, restaurants)

“his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification”

1. Why does Dr. King feel that freedom is the key to prosperity in the United States?

So much more can be accomplished when we work together, pray together, struggle together.