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3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District

My name is Eugene. My best friend is Giani. He is white. I am black. I am allowed to have him as a friend because of Dr. Martin Luther King. One of Dr. King's famous lines from his "I Have A Dream Speech" is "I have a dream that one day little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white girls and little white boys." This could not happen with Dr. King because laws specified that white children were not allowed to play with black children.

Dr. King had a white friend just like me. I learned about their friendship in a book my teacher read us about Dr. King. His friend's dad said that this friendship had to end because one was white and one was black. This is called segregation and when Dr. King was a kid it was the law. Martin Luther King started the civil rights movement which led to these laws changing. These specific laws were called Jim Crow laws. They meant that black people were not allowed to go to the same bathrooms, drink out of the same water fountains and go to the same schools as white people. Dr. King worked to change these laws. So if Dr. King did not exist me and Giani could not be friends. That is how Dr. Martin Luther King changed my life.