

What does “justice” mean? What does “injustice” mean?

Describe one time when you experienced injustice.

Justice means to do what is right or to be fair. It means treating others in a way that does not cause harm and always shows genuine respect.

Injustice means the opposite of justice. It means to do something that is not right, or unfair. It also means to treat people like they are not equal. There are many different kinds of injustice. Some examples are racism, slavery, religious persecution and gender problems.

Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Lincoln were both against injustice. Martin Luther King, Jr., also known as MLK, gave speeches about injustice all over the country. A famous quote about justice from Martin Luther King, Jr. is “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” This means that if people are not treating others fairly in one way, it is just as bad as treating everyone badly. It teaches us that we should be fair to everyone. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood up against injustice, especially racism. President Lincoln also stood up against injustice, especially slavery. He once said that “Slavery is founded on the selfishness of man’s nature; opposition to it on his love of justice.” This means that the people who started slavery did it just because they were thinking of themselves and what they wanted, but not of other people. They liked having all the power and making people do what they wanted them to do. But the people who were against slavery wanted to end it because they thought it was not fair. Even though it would have been nice to have all that power, they knew it was wrong and they did not want anyone to take part in it anymore.

Even though my experience with injustice might not be as serious as the racial injustice that Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Lincoln worked against, I have experienced injustice in my own life. A few months ago, I had to leave school early because I got sick. My teacher gave me a bunch of papers to do for homework when I left. She did not give me specific directions for this work. So that night I did all of my homework. I turned it in the next day when I got back to school. When I got the papers back a few days later, one of the questions on my Social Studies paper was marked wrong. I read the question again and did not understand why it was marked wrong. I asked my parents what they thought about it, and they thought it was right, too. I could have just ignored it and forgotten about it, but I decided to see if my teacher could help me. I was very scared to ask her about it because I thought she was going to yell at me or be upset that I questioned her. I worried about how to talk to my teacher and practiced with my parents. The next day, I took the paper to her class and asked her about it. I explained that I did not understand why my answer was wrong. She told me that I was given instructions for that question and that I was not specific enough with my answer. I reminded her that I got sick that day and was not there to hear her instructions. She quickly realized that she had made a mistake and gave me the points. I felt proud of myself for standing up for what I thought was right. Even though it was really a mistake, it would have hurt my grade if I had not done that.

I like to study Social Studies, and I know that there are many different kinds of injustice throughout the world. This was just a small example of injustice that I have experienced in my life. I hope that as I grow up, I will be able to fight for justice and stand up for what I believe in, just like Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Abraham Lincoln did. I also hope that when other people see things that are wrong, they will stand up for what they believe is right and learn from their mistakes.