“Choice: A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Alice Walker

Homework Questions:

1. What picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. did Walker’s tribute give you?
2. Did Walker’s speech tell you anything new about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his effect on American life?
3. What choice do you think Walker is referring to in the title of her speech?
4. In the first eight paragraphs, Alice Walker talks about her own family. What is her point in telling you about these memories?
5. Alice Walker says that King was concerned for the “disinherited” of all ethnic backgrounds. What do you think she means by disinherited?
6. What is Walker’s main idea? How does the story she tells support that main idea?
7. What larger meaning do you read into the word home in the last sentence?
8. What things does Walker mention that reminds you of your own family and friends and their hopes for the future?
9. When and where did Alice Walker give this speech?
10. What is the significance of the location?
11. According to Walker, why did African Americans once have to leave the South?
12. How did Walker first learn about Martin Luther King, Jr.?
13. How did this affect her life?
14. According to Walker, what gifts did Martin Luther King, Jr. leave behind? List the things he gave us.