

2026–27 FREDRICKIA HARGROVE POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST

DIVISION 1 — GRADES K–3 POSTER PROMPT

Theme: “Blueprint for Tomorrow: Constructing Your Character”

Anchor Passage: “Number 1: Principle of Somebodiness”

NOTE: Teachers should introduce students to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?” by reading selected portions of the full transcript aloud and, when appropriate, playing selected portions of the speech from The King Center’s YouTube channel.

To Read Aloud to Students: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once gave a speech to students. He asked them an important question: What is your life’s blueprint?

A blueprint is a plan for building something. Before workers build a house, school, church, bridge, or park, they need a plan. Dr. King said every person needs a plan for life too.

He wanted children to know three important things:

You matter. You can do your best. You can help make the world better.

Dr. King used the word “somebodiness.” That means every person has dignity and worth. He told the students, “Always feel that you count.” Every child should know, “I am somebody.”

In Paducah, Oscar Cross believed children mattered. He helped build a safe place where children could learn, play, and grow. That place became the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club.

Official contest text: the full transcript, printed in this manual. Listening support and the full source note appear under “Official Contest Text and Listening Access.”

SCENARIO

A good city does more than build streets and buildings. A good city helps children grow.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told students that every child should know, “I am somebody.” That means every child matters. Every child deserves care. Every child should have a safe place to learn, play, dream, and belong.

Oscar Cross believed children in Paducah mattered. He helped build a place where children could be safe, learn, play, and grow. That place became the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club.

A city where children matter has helpers. It has schools, parks, libraries, clubs, families, teachers, neighbors, and leaders who care about young people.

The King Center wants to teach children Dr. King’s message of dignity, kindness, and nonviolence. It is asking the Paducah City Commissioners to help gather student artwork about what a child-friendly city should look like.

YOUR TASK

The Paducah City Commissioners and The King Center want to see our city through YOUR eyes. Create a poster that answers one question:

What should Paducah look like if every child knows, “I am somebody”?

Show your vision — children being cared for, included, safe, learning, playing, helping, or dreaming. You might draw a school, a park, a neighborhood, a library, the Oscar Cross Boys and Girls Club, children helping one another, adults helping children, or any place where every child belongs.

KAS ALIGNMENT FOR DIVISION 1

Focus Area	What It Means	How to Show It
Responding to a Text	Connect the read-aloud to your own ideas	Your poster answers Dr. King’s question about children mattering
Communication	Share a clear message through art	A viewer can tell what your picture is saying
Originality	Use your own ideas and imagination	Draw your own vision, not a copy
Poster Technique	Use color, space, and materials with care	Fill the space; make it easy to see
Cultural & Community Context	Show a real or imagined place in your community	Include a Paducah place or helper

TEACHER'S TOOLKIT FOR DIVISION 1

Activity 1: "Every Child Matters" Anchor Chart

Objective: Help students understand Dr. King's idea of "somebodiness."

1. Create a large anchor chart titled "Every Child Matters."
2. Ask students: "What helps a child feel safe?" "What helps a child feel loved?" "What helps a child learn?" "What helps a child belong?"
3. Write student ideas on the chart.
4. Keep the chart visible during poster planning.

KAS Alignment: VA:Cn10.1.K-3 — Connecting art to personal experience.

Activity 2: "What Makes a Good City for Children?"

Objective: Help students connect the poster task to Paducah.

1. Show pictures of familiar child-friendly places: a school, library, park, neighborhood, Boys and Girls Club, or community center.
2. Ask: "What happens here that helps children?"
3. Students choose one place they may want to include in their poster.

KAS Alignment: SL.K-3.1 — Participating in collaborative conversations.

Activity 3: The Oscar Cross Story

Objective: Connect local history to the poster.

1. Tell students that Oscar Cross believed children in Paducah mattered.
2. Explain that he helped build a safe place where children could learn, play, and grow.
3. Ask: "How did Oscar Cross help children know they were somebody?"
4. Students may include a helper like Oscar Cross in their poster.

KAS Alignment: SL.K-3.1.

Activity 4: "I Am Somebody" Mirror Moment

Objective: Make somebodiness personal before it becomes civic.

1. Each child completes the sentence aloud: "I am somebody because ____."
2. The teacher writes each answer on a card and posts them together as a class wall.
3. Ask: "Our wall has every single person in this room on it. What would our *city* look like if it did that too?"

KAS Alignment: SL.K-3.1.

Activity 5: One Big Picture Poster Plan

Objective: Avoid a checklist poster and help students create one clear scene.

1. Give students a planning sheet with one large box.
2. Prompt: “Draw one place in Paducah where every child matters.”
3. Around the box, students may circle words: safe, loved, learning, playing, helping, dreaming, belonging.
4. Students then create the final poster.

KAS Alignment: VA:Cr1.1.K-3 — Engaging in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

HOME & COMMUNITY CONNECTION: A PARTNER’S GUIDE FOR DIVISION 1

Family Activity: “I Am Somebody” Conversation

Ask your child:

- What does it mean to be somebody?
- Who helps you feel loved and important?
- How can you help someone else feel like they matter?

Community Activity: “Child-Friendly City Walk”

Take a walk or drive through Paducah. Look for places that help children grow. Ask:

- Where do children learn?
- Where do children play?
- Where do children feel safe?
- What would make our city even better for children?

Family History Connection: Oscar Cross

Talk about Oscar Cross and the Boys and Girls Club. Ask:

- Why do children need safe places?
- What kind of grown-up helps children know they matter?
- What helper could you draw in your poster?