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## Martin Studies Bigotry, 1939-1995

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## Special Features

*Diversity in Education: Meeting the Challenge*

### **Martin Studies Bigotry, 1939-1995**

#### Bigotry 101:

bigotry was Martin's by birth—true enough  
but his grandmother taught him his superiority  
their superiority. The best blood in Virginia flows through  
those veins, she told him. Remember, she said. And he did.

#### Remedial Bigotry:

Martin and Eddy saw Lena Horne in technicolor. She sang  
"Stormy Weather" as dancers spiraled around her  
in tight Cuban pants and florid green and lavender shirts.  
Her milk and coffee arms and shoulders looked like dessert  
and Martin loved her. She's a Negress,  
his grandmother said. You mustn't forget that—ever.  
So he did as he was taught. He remembered.  
Yet Lena Horne remained his secret,  
his milk and coffee dessert until the day he died.

#### Applied Bigotry:

Martin toured the Civil Rights Institute, saw the water  
fountain for colored, a burned Greyhound bus  
heard voices of angry white men  
heard black people sing "Oh Freedom"  
saw dogs and hoses, people running in all directions.  
In the lobby, a large book was open on a table  
a sign told him to register, to tell about his role  
in the Movement. He remembered his grandmother's  
lesson. Martin wrote, "I did nothing."

James Brewbaker