

Rosa's Courageous Ride



Once upon a time, in the southern city of Montgomery, Alabama, there was a brave woman named Rosa Parks. Rosa lived in a world very different from the one we know today. In those days, there were different rules for people of different races. These rules were unfair and made life difficult for African Americans like Rosa.

Every day, Rosa followed her daily routine. She was a seamstress, which meant she sewed clothes for a living. After a long day at work, she would board a city bus to go home. But there was something about the bus rides that made Rosa feel angry and sad.

You see, on the bus, there were rules. In the front, there were seats reserved for White passengers, and in the back, there were seats for African Americans. If White passengers didn't have enough seats, African Americans were told to give up their seats and stand, no matter how tired they were.

One day, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks had had enough. She had just finished a long day at work and was exhausted. She sat down in the "colored" section of the bus, just like she always did. But when the bus driver told her to give up her seat to a White passenger, something inside Rosa stirred.

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Rosa Parks, with a voice full of determination, said, "no." This simple word, "no," started something big. The bus driver was angry and called the police. Rosa was arrested for not following the unfair bus rules.

Rosa's arrest made people all over Montgomery angry. African American leaders in the city decided they couldn't let this injustice continue. They called for a boycott of the buses. A boycott is when people stop using something as a way to protest.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a well-known civil rights leader, became the leader of this protest. He and others formed the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). The MIA organized the boycott. They held meetings, raised money, and helped people find other ways to get around, like walking or carpooling.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for a long time—381 days! It wasn't easy for the people who participated. They faced hardships and challenges. But in the end, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was unfair and unconstitutional. The boycott was a big win for civil rights and fairness.

The story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott teaches us that even in the face of injustice, one person's courage can inspire many. Rosa Parks and the others who joined the boycott were ordinary people who did something extraordinary. Their bravery and determination inspired others, and their legacy still inspires us today.

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- 1) What was the immediate consequence of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat?
 - A) She was awarded a medal.
 - B) She was arrested.
 - C) She became the bus driver.
 - D) She received a free bus pass.

- 2) Who became the leader of the protest and formed the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to organize the boycott?
 - A) Rosa Parks
 - B) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - C) The bus driver
 - D) Rosa's friends

- 3) How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?
 - A) 7 days
 - B) 38 days
 - C) 181 days
 - D) 381 days

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4) Write T if the statements are true and F if they are false.

A) Rosa Parks worked as a teacher. _____

B) The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on buses was fair and constitutional. _____

C) The Montgomery Bus Boycott was an important victory for civil rights. _____

5) What was Rosa's job, and how did she usually go home after work?

6) Explain in your own words why Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat was an act of bravery.

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7) What was the immediate consequence of Rosa Parks' arrest?

8) Why do you think it's important to remember the story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott today?
