

## Resource 4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Source 1: Rosa Parks Acts Against Unfair Law

When Rosa Parks rode on a bus, she had to sit all the way in the back. Her city had a law. It said black people could not sit in the front of a bus.

One day Rosa was tired. She sat in the front. The bus driver told her to move. She did not. He called the police. Rosa was put in jail.

Some citizens tried to help. One of them was Martin Luther King Jr. The citizens decided to stop riding buses until the law was changed.

Their plan worked. The law was changed. Soon, many other unfair laws were changed. Rosa Parks led the way!

Source: Jeff Passe and Evangeline Nicholas (1991). Exploring My World. D. C. Heath and Co. Lexington, MA. Found in Kohl, Herbert. (2005). She Would Not Be Moved: How We Tell the Story of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The New Press. New York, NY

### Checks for Understanding

According to the source that you just read...

1. Where was Rosa Parks sitting?
2. What did she do in response to the bus law?
3. What did the author mean when they stated that Ms. Parks was tired?

### Draw Conclusions

4. Is the document that you just read a primary source or a secondary source if you are trying to find out what Rosa Parks did on December 1, 1955. Explain.
5. Why might it matter whether it is a primary or secondary source?

**Source 2: Rosa Parks Acts Against Unfair Law**

The custom for getting on the bus for black persons in Montgomery in 1955 was to pay at the front door, get off the bus, and then re-enter through the back door to find a seat. On the buses, if white persons got on, the colored would move back if the white section was filled. Black people could not sit in the same row with white people. They could not even sit across the aisle from each other...

On Thursday evening, December 1, I was riding the bus home from work. A white man got on, and the driver looked our way and said, "Let me have those seats."

...When more whites boarded the bus, the driver, J.P. Blake, ordered the Blacks in the fifth row, (the row I was sitting in), to move to the rear.

At first, none of us moved.

"Y'all better make it light on yourselves and let me have those seats," Blake said.

Then three of the blacks in my row got up. I do not remember being frightened...Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it.

I knew someone had to take the first step. So I made up my mind not to move. Blake asked me if I was going to stand up.

"No. I am not"

"Why do you push us around?" I said to one of the policemen.

"I don't know," he answered, "but the law is the law and you're under arrest."

Source: Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed (1994) *Quiet Strength*. Zondervan Publishing House. Grand Rapids, MI.

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