

Name: _____

Level 4: Reading Comprehension

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks helped change the laws in America. Because of her actions, everyone in America has equal rights.

Rosa Parks was a black woman born in 1913 in Alabama. At that time there were laws segregating black and white people. Segregating means keeping them apart.

Rosa Parks went to a school with all African American students. Whites and blacks were forced to go to different schools. After she got her high school diploma, she helped her family earn money by working as a seamstress in a department store.

Rosa Parks became famous when she was sitting on a bus and refused to give up her seat to a white man. There was a law in Alabama that said black people had to leave their seat on a bus if a white person wanted to sit down. She believed she had dignity and whites were not better than her because she was black.

Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat. She still felt she did the right thing. After that, all African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. They also held many peaceful protests. Martin Luther King, Jr. also helped in the protests.

A year later, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation was illegal. Now whites and blacks could go to the same schools. They did not have to give up their seats on buses. They had the same rights as everyone else in America.

Rosa Parks is considered a hero today because she believed everyone should be treated equally. She was honored in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, who gave her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a citizen can receive.

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Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Where was Rosa Parks born?

2. Why didn't she give up her seat?

3. What happened when Rosa didn't give up her seat?

4. Who decided that segregation is illegal?

5. The fifth paragraph says that African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. What do you think boycott means?

6. How did President Clinton honor Rosa Parks?

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ANSWER KEY

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Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Where was Rosa Parks born?

Rosa Parks was born in Alabama.

2. Why didn't she give up her seat?

She didn't think that white people were better than her and she had dignity.

3. What happened when Rosa didn't give up her seat?

Rosa Parks was arrested when she did not give up her seat.

4. Who decided that segregation is illegal?

The Supreme Court decided that segregation is illegal.

5. The fifth paragraph says that African Americans boycotted the bus for over a year. What do you think **boycott** means?

Boycott means to refuse to do business with. When African Americans boycotted the bus, they refused to ride the bus.

6. How did President Clinton honor Rosa Parks?

He awarded her the medal of honor.