What If I Don't Move to the Back of the Bus?

Rosa Parks story



It's one of the most famous moments in modern American civil rights history: On the chilly evening of December 1, 1955, in the capital of Alabama, Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress boarded a segregated city bus to return home after a long day of work, taking a seat near the middle, just behind the front "white" section. At the next stop, more passengers got on. When every seat in the white section was taken, the bus driver ordered the black passengers in the middle row to stand so a white man could sit. The seamstress refused.

When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat, she was arrested for violating the city's racial segregation ordinances. Her action sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, led by the Montgomery Improvement Association and Martin Luther King.

The bus boycott took a long time, but after 381 difficult days, the courts made an announcement – they said that segregation on buses was ilegal. It was a great victory. A few days later, Rosa Parks took a bus again, and she sat right in the front.

Match the words with their definitions. Write the letters in the corresponding box.

a) seamstress	☐	set apart from the rest or from each other; isolate or divide.
b) refuse	☐	a trace of a specified quality or intense feeling
c) segregate	☐	withdraw from commercial or social relations with (a country, organization, or person) as a punishment or protest.
d) spark	☐	a woman who sews, especially one who earns her living by sewing.
e) boycott	☐	indicate or show that one is not willing to do something.

Write TRUE or FALSE next to each sentence.

a) Rosa Parks didn't usually travel by bus. _____

b) There were separate sections in the bus for white and black people. _____

c) Rosa was sitting in a "white" seat. _____

d) Rosa said "No" to the bus driver. _____

e) Her actions caused her some serious problems. _____

f) Black people didn't use the buses for more than one year. _____

g) Martin Luther King was part of the campaign. _____

h) The campaigners lost their battle. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS