



## SEGREGATION

In the 1950s, the South was very segregated. This meant that black and white people were not allowed to do anything together. They weren't encouraged to interact together in any setting. It was a sad and absurd time in the South.

Laws were in place that made blacks attend separate schools and separate churches. They were not allowed to eat at the same restaurants as white people. They were not allowed to sit next to the whites on the bus or the train. If there were not enough seats for whites, black people were required to give up their seats.

In public places, the whites and blacks had separate drinking fountains. African-Americans were not even allowed to vote. This had to stop. But changes came very slowly.

Many people helped bring about these changes. Jackie Robinson showed the world that black people had great talent. Thurgood Marshall fought for equal education rights for children. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the message to Washington, D.C. and gave his famous speech. These and many more people helped bring about the much-needed changes.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about segregation?
  - a. disgusted
  - b. amused
  - c. understanding
  - d. anxious
2. Which statement shows the author's opinion of segregation?
  - a. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus.
  - b. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took the message to Washington, D.C.
  - c. It was a sad time in the South.
  - d. But changes came very slowly.
3. The second and third paragraphs inform the reader about . . .
  - a. the discrimination against people living in the South.
  - b. the differences between the rich and the poor.
  - c. the discrimination between the immigrants and the slaves.
  - d. the discrimination against the blacks in the South.
4. Where would this information about segregation most likely be found?
  - a. in a book about the Revolutionary War
  - b. in a pamphlet about the president of the United States
  - c. on a website about the Civil War
  - d. on a website about civil rights