

Rosa's Bus

AUTHOR: Jo S. Kittinger

ILLUSTRATOR: Stephen Walker

PUBLISHER: Boyd Mills Press/Calkins Creek

COPYRIGHT DATE: 2010

ART MEDIUM: oils

GENRE: Biography, Nonfiction,

LIFE SKILLS: cooperation, effort, organization, courage, pride, integrity, perseverance

SYNOPSIS:

This story of Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement is centered on the bus where she refused to give up her seat. The reader sees how life for black Americans changed, from the time the bus rolled out of the factory to its final journey to the Ford Museum in Detroit.

This book traces the history of the bus that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on. It starts with the manufacturing of the bus and takes us through present day where it is housed in a museum.

The book offers the history of the bus in which Rosa refused to give up her seat with interesting information about the historical day. Rosa's act of courage is highlighted and the resulting boycotts are explained. An excellent book to use when teaching Civil Rights, boycotts, or Black History.

BOOKTALK:

Raise your hand if you have heard of Rosa Parks. Why was she famous? Now raise your hand to share what you know about the bus where she refused to give up her seat. Do you know what it looked like? Did you know that it was made in Michigan in 1948? Do you know its bus number? Do you know where it is right now? Now that I've got you thinking about that bus, I bet you have lots of other questions, too. To help answer those questions, I'd like to read a book called *Rosa's Bus*, by Jo S. Kittinger.

There are many people who have made a significant difference throughout history. Rosa Parks was one of these people. When she refused to give up her seat on a bus, a series of events was set in course that changed American history. But what about the bus? Our story traces Rosa's courageous stand while tracking the bus.

Have you ever felt you were being treated unfairly? Have you ever been mandated to do something you did not think was right? A white man demanded that Rosa give up her seat to him. She refused. What happens? What would you have done? Read to learn the results of her decision.

AUTHOR:

Jo S. Kittinger

This story of Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement is centered on the bus where she refused to give up her seat. The reader sees how life for black Americans changed, from the time the bus rolled out of the factory to its final journey to the Ford Museum in Detroit. (www.jokittinger.com – book trailer)

Other books written by the author:

A Breath of Hope
The House on Dirty-Third Street
The Joy of Cats
A Look at Minerals
A Look at Rocks
Stories in Stone
David Drew Likes Blue
George Washington Carver
Going to the Beach
Jane Goodall
Lindy Lee Likes Pink
A Lunch with Punch
Moving Day
When I Grow Up

ILLUSTRATOR:

Steven Walker

The illustrator is an instructor at Peggy R. McConnell Art Center and an adjunct professor at Otterbein College. He publishes his work as a free-lance illustrator in addition to publishing children's picture books.

Other books illustrated by the illustrator:

The Story of Rosa Parks
The Story of Coretta Scott King
The Stourbridge Lion

CHALLENGING WORDS (...due to pronunciation, spelling and/or defining):

Boycott
Jim Crow
Civil Rights Movement
Chugged
Democracy
Protest

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Please include 4-6 questions)

- 1 Why didn't Rosa want to give up her seat?
- 2 Imagine that instead of the old rules about skin color in this book, we had rules about eye color. People with blue eyes had to sit in one part of the bus and people with brown eyes had to sit in another part of the bus. Would that be fair? How would that make you feel?

- 3 In the book, sometimes people say “That’s just the way things were.” Do you think that’s a good reason to keep doing something? Explain.
- 4 Think about the text of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech. Can you make a connection with this book? Explain.
- 5 Why effect is the author trying to achieve by using the repeated phrase, “That’s just the way things were”?
- 6 If Rosa Parks wasn’t the first person to refuse to move, why did the boycott begin with her actions?
- 7 What did black people do during the bus boycott? How long did the boycott last?
- 8 Why did the boycott finally end?
- 9 How would you describe Rosa Parks? Who do you know with similar characteristics? Explain
- 10 Have you ever stood up for anything you knew was wrong?
- 11 Community is the degree people come together for the common good. Discuss the community that developed around Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. For what common good did they come together?
- 12 What is a hero? Would you identify Rosa Parks as a hero? Why?
- 13 Look at all the faces in the book. Why do you think the author drew the faces with little emotion?

ACTIVITIES with CORE STANDARDS:

Language Arts:

- Do a research project about various Civil Rights leaders. Start by reading simple biographies and answering some or all of these questions:
 - Why was he/she famous?
 - How did he/she change the world?
 - How has this person changed your life today?
 - What can we learn from this person’s life?
- Many people Rosa Parks to be a hero. Write about your hero and what makes them special.

The final product may be a poster or a class book.

- Using the repetitive phrase from the book, “That’s just the way things were” or a similar phrase, brainstorm an incident or time in history which differed from today’s world. Brainstorm differences between the past and present. Write stanzas modeling the format in the text.
 - EL.3.4.1 2006 Organization and Focus:
Find ideas for writing stories and descriptions in conversations with others; in books, magazines, or school textbooks; or on the Internet.
 - EL.3.4.2 2006 Discuss ideas for writing, use diagrams and charts to develop ideas, and make a list or notebook of ideas.
 - EL.3.4.9 2006 Organize related ideas together within a paragraph to maintain a consistent *focus*.

Mathematics:

- How many years ago did the bus boycott begin?

Social Studies:

- Research Jim Crow Laws
- Trace the life of Rosa's bus on a USA map.
 - The bus was built in Pontiac, Michigan in March 1948.
 - From there it went into service in Terre Haute, Indiana from 1948-1954.
 - Then it was moved to Montgomery, Alabama. The bus was in service from 1954-1971.
 - After sitting in a field for many years, it was finally purchased by the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan in 2001 and put on display in 2003.

*Identify the locations on the map. Using the map's scale of miles, calculate the total distance the bus traveled from 1948 to 2003...

- SS.5.3.3 2007 Places and Regions: Name and locate states, regions, major cities and capitals, major rivers and mountain ranges in the United States
- SS.4.3.2 2007 The World in Spatial Terms: Estimate distances between two places on a map, using a scale of miles, and use cardinal and intermediate directions when referring to relative location.

Others:

- Find and listen to cultural songs from the era of Rosa Parks. Is there any music that has a message of hope?

RELATED INTERNET SITES:

Rosa Parks Information and Activities:

<http://www.brainpopjr.com/socialstudies/biographies/rosaparks/grownups.weml>

Rosa Parks on Enchanted Learning – Information and Activities

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/history/us/aframer/parks/>

[http://www.jokittinger.com/Rosa s Curriculum Tie-In.php](http://www.jokittinger.com/Rosa_s_Curriculum_Tie-In.php)

http://www.jokittinger.com/uploads/color_sheet_final_rosa.pdf

<http://www.rosaparksfacts.com/montgomery-bus-boycott.php>

Information on Rosa Parks and the boycotts

<http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit37/lesson3.html#lesson>

Lessons on heroes to supplement the book

ATTACH ACTIVITY SHEETS HERE:

Teacher requests input from the class while typing information into this bio cube: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/cube_creator/