

The First Lady of Civil Rights: Rosa Parks

Grade Level: K - 4

Content Areas: Music, Art, Social Sciences, Technology, and Language Arts
Time Frame: 45 minutes

MATERIALS

- [The First Lady of Civil Rights: Rosa Parks Book](#)

- Art Materials for Road Display and Buses

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Learn the story of Rosa Parks.
- Learn about the rules on buses in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955.
- Role play the scene on the bus on that December day in 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus.

VOCABULARY:

Key vocabulary

Before reading, focus on vocabulary. Read the glossary words and their definitions.

Boycott - To refuse to buy or use certain goods and services

Civil Rights - Freedoms that every person should have

Courage - Bravery

Protest - To openly disagree with something

Race - A group of people with the same ancestors

Supreme Court - The final judge in all cases in the United States

FREE SONG

[Click here](#) to download or stream the First Lady of Civil Rights: Rosa Parks song.

Find other Cantata Learning songs and books at <http://www.cantatalearning.com>.



PROCEDURES/ACTIVITIES

Preparation:

Start by asking the students if they know who Rosa Parks is? Then ask the students if they know what events took place on December 1, 1955?

Lesson Procedure:

1. Read aloud [The First Lady of Civil Rights: Rosa Parks](#) book.
2. Ask students what they thought about the events and ask if they have any questions.
3. Tell students that they are now going to be taught three rules that bus riders had to follow in 1955.
 1. White people boarded the bus through the front door. They dropped their coins into the fare box next to the driver. Then they sat in one of the long seats at the front of the bus or in one of the first three rows of seats.
 2. Black people boarded the bus through the front door. They dropped their coins into the fare box. Then they had to get off the bus and get back on through the door in the back of the bus. They took a seat in one of the last five rows or they stood in a "standing only" area at the back of the bus.
 3. If a white person got on the bus and there were no more seats in the white section, a black person who was sitting in the front rows of seats set aside for black people had to give up his or her seat.
4. Discuss the rules in relation to Rosa's story. You can even have students' role play these rules to get a better understanding.
5. As a class, make a display that looks like a road.
6. Next, cut out some bus shapes, and write what happened at each stage on each bus.
7. Encourage the children to summarize the story for you, and see what they remember.



Art Extension:

As an art extension, the children can decorate their buses. Encourage them to make them special and unique, just like them and just like Rosa Parks.

Another art extension could be to create paper bag puppets of Rosa Parks and other important people in history. There are so many ways to create paper bag puppets. You will find lots of ideas from this [Pinterest link](#).

After their puppets are created, the students can act out the part of history they are known for. For example, with the Rosa Park puppet and a bus puppet, they could act out that December day in 1955 when Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus while listening and singing First Lady of the Civil Rights from Cantata Learning.

[Our First President, George Washington](#); [Peaceful Leader: Martin Luther King, Jr.](#); and [He Changed Our Great Nation: Abraham Lincoln](#) are others from Cantata Learning that would be perfect to use as well.

Technology Extension:

As they are acting out the Cantata Learning books with their puppets, you can capture it on video and turn it into a movie using YouTube Creator Studio, which is a free movie creation tool within YouTube or from the free app. You can get the app [here](#).

Students will also love creating puppet shows with the free app [Puppet Pals](#). With this app, students can create their very own puppet show with animation and audio. After they select their characters and other elements of production, the Cantata Learning books could even be played and recorded, as they act out the story while singing along.

Standards:

Common Core:

Kindergarten: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.K.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.1

First Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.1

Second Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1

Third Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.3.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.3.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1

Fourth Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.4.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.4.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.1

National Standards:

Social Sciences: Civics

Grades - K - 4

NSS-C.K-4.2 Values and Principles of Democracy

NSS-C.K-4.5 Roles of the Citizen

Social Sciences: U.S. History

Grades - K - 4

NSS-USH.K-4.3 The History of the United States: Democratic Principles and Values and the People from Many Cultures Who Contributed to Its Cultural, Economic, and Political Heritage