

# Meet Rosa Parks

## By Susan LaBella



Many years ago, places in the United States had laws that kept black people and white people apart. In some cities, laws said that black people could not sit next to white people on buses. Other laws did not allow black people to use the same drinking fountains or restrooms as white people.

One day, an African American woman named Rosa Parks got on a bus. After she sat down, the bus became full. The bus driver told Rosa to give up her seat to a white man. Rosa refused. She believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat.

Rosa was arrested after refusing to move. People heard about Rosa's protest against the law. Some people said there should be fairer laws. Soon, more people began demanding that the law be changed.

Slowly, places in the United States began changing their laws. Bus drivers were no longer allowed to make black people give up their seats. New laws said black people must be able to use the same drinking fountains and restrooms as white people.

Rosa Parks spoke out for what she believed in. She was a person of strong **character**. We remember Rosa today as a hero who worked for fairness and equality.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did Rosa Parks refuse to do on a bus?

- A) sit down instead of standing up
- B) give up her seat to a white man
- C) give up her seat to an old lady

2. Rosa's protest caused some people to start saying the law should be changed. What was an effect of these people demanding change?

- A) Places in the United States slowly began changing their laws.
- B) Rosa was arrested for refusing to change seats on the bus.
- C) Rosa started to believe that the laws were not fair.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"Rosa Parks spoke out for what she believed in. She was a person of strong character."

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A) Rosa refused to give up her seat on the bus because she thought it was unfair.
- B) Some people who heard about Rosa's protest started saying there should be fairer laws.
- C) When the bus Rosa was on became full, the bus driver told Rosa to give up her seat.

4. The article says Rosa Parks was a person of strong character. How else could Rosa be described, based on the article?

- A) lonely
- B) brave
- C) friendly

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A) Rosa Parks wanted to be able to sit down on a bus, but a law stopped her from sitting.
- B) The United States used to have many laws that kept black people and white people apart.
- C) Rosa Parks spoke out against a law she thought was unfair by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"The bus driver told Rosa to give up her seat to a white man. Rosa refused. She believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat.

"Rosa was arrested after refusing to move."

Based on these sentences, what does the word "refuse" mean?

- A) say no
- B) yell
- C) cry

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"The bus driver told Rosa to give up her seat to a white man. Rosa refused. She believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat."

How could the last two sentences best be combined?

- A) Rosa refused, so she believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat.
- B) Rosa refused, but she believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat.
- C) Rosa refused because she believed it was not fair that she had to give up her seat.

8. How did Rosa Parks protest against the law that said black people could not sit next to white people on buses?

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9. What did people do when they heard about Rosa's protest?

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**10.** If Rosa had agreed to move from her seat, would the laws keeping black people and white people apart in the United States have changed? Why or why not? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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