

GRADE 8

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 **Read the passage carefully and choose the letter of the correct answer.**

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott



On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks made a quiet decision that sparked a powerful movement. After a long day of work, Parks boarded a city bus and sat in the section designated for Black passengers. When the bus filled up, the driver ordered her and three others to give up their seats for white riders. Parks refused. Her calm defiance led to her arrest, but it also ignited one of the most significant protests of the Civil Rights Movement.

Parks was not the first Black passenger to resist segregation on buses, but her case quickly captured the attention of leaders and citizens alike. Activists in Montgomery organized a citywide bus boycott, encouraging African Americans to walk, carpool, or find other transportation instead of riding the buses. The boycott lasted for over a year, demonstrating the determination of a community that was tired of unjust laws.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott also brought national attention to a young pastor named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who emerged as one of the leaders of the protest. The boycott's success showed that nonviolent protest could be a powerful tool for change. In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional, marking a victory for civil rights.

Rosa Parks's simple act of resistance is remembered as a turning point in American history. Her courage symbolized the dignity and determination of countless individuals who demanded equal rights. Today, she is honored as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," and her story continues to inspire those who stand against injustice.

Part A – Reading Comprehension

Q1: What action did Rosa Parks take on December 1, 1955?

- A.** She led a march in Washington, D.C.
- B.** She refused to give up her seat on a bus.
- C.** She filed a lawsuit against bus drivers.
- D.** She delivered a speech with Dr. King.

Q2: What was the main strategy used by the African American community in Montgomery to protest bus segregation?

- A.** Writing letters to Congress
- B.** Organizing a boycott of buses
- C.** Moving to another city
- D.** Holding violent demonstrations

Q3: The Supreme Court's ruling in 1956 declared that:

- A.** Rosa Parks's arrest was illegal.
- B.** Segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
- C.** Boycotts could no longer be used as protests.
- D.** Dr. King would become the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

Q4: Why did the boycott last for more than a year?

- A.** The city refused to change its segregation laws.
- B.** People quickly lost interest in the movement.
- C.** Dr. King asked the protestors to end it early
- D.** The buses were shut down by the government.

Q5: Which sentence best states the central idea of the passage?

- A.** Rosa Parks was the first person arrested for refusing to give up her seat.
- B.** Rosa Parks's courage and the bus boycott played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- C.** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became famous by riding buses in Montgomery.
- D.** The Supreme Court always supported civil rights protests.

Part B – Vocabulary in Context

Q6: In the passage, the word **defiance** most nearly means:

- A.** cooperation
- B.** refusal to obey
- C.** hesitation
- D.** bravery in battle

Q7: What does the word **boycott** mean as used in the passage?

- A.** A celebration or parade
- B.** A speech given in protest
- C.** A refusal to use services or goods as a form of protest
- D.** A law passed by the government

Q8: Which word from the passage means “separation based on race”?

- A.** Justice
- B.** Segregation
- C.** Defiance
- D.** Protest

Part C – Short Answer (Answers may vary)

Q9: Why did Rosa Parks's act of resistance gain so much attention compared to others before her?

Q10: The boycott showed that when the community worked together, they could pressure the bus system and city officials to make change.



✓ Right Answers

Part A – Reading Comprehension

Q1: What action did Rosa Parks take on December 1, 1955?

- A.** She led a march in Washington, D.C.
- B.** She refused to give up her seat on a bus.
- C.** She filed a lawsuit against bus drivers.
- D.** She delivered a speech with Dr. King.

Answer: B. She refused to give up her seat on a bus.

Q2: What was the main strategy used by the African American community in Montgomery to protest bus segregation?

- A.** Writing letters to Congress
- B.** Organizing a boycott of buses
- C.** Moving to another city
- D.** Holding violent demonstrations

Answer: B. Organizing a boycott of buses

Q3: The Supreme Court's ruling in 1956 declared that:

- A.** Rosa Parks's arrest was illegal.
- B.** Segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
- C.** Boycotts could no longer be used as protests.
- D.** Dr. King would become the leader of the Civil Rights Movement.

Answer: B. Segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

Q4: Why did the boycott last for more than a year?

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- B.** People quickly lost interest in the movement.
- C.** Dr. King asked the protestors to end it early
- D.** The buses were shut down by the government.

Answer: **A.** The city refused to change its segregation laws.

Q5: Which sentence best states the central idea of the passage?

- A.** Rosa Parks was the first person arrested for refusing to give up her seat.
- B.** Rosa Parks's courage and the bus boycott played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- C.** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became famous by riding buses in Montgomery.
- D.** The Supreme Court always supported civil rights protests.

Answer: **B.** Rosa Parks's courage and the bus boycott played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Part B – Vocabulary in Context

Q6: In the passage, the word **defiance** most nearly means:

- A.** cooperation
- B.** refusal to obey
- C.** hesitation
- D.** bravery in battle

Answer: **B.** refusal to obey

Q7: What does the word **boycott** mean as used in the passage?

- A.** A celebration or parade
- B.** A speech given in protest
- C.** A refusal to use services or goods as a form of protest
- D.** A law passed by the government

Answer: **C.** A refusal to use services or goods as a form of protest

Q8: Which word from the passage means “separation based on race”?

- A.** Justice
- B.** Segregation
- C.** Defiance
- D.** Protest

Answer: **B.** Segregation

Part C – Short Answer (Answers may vary)

Q9: Why did Rosa Parks's act of resistance gain so much attention compared to others before her?

Her arrest gained attention because she was a respected member of the community, and her quiet defiance symbolized the unfairness of segregation.

Q10: The boycott showed that when the community worked together, they could pressure the bus system and city officials to make change.

The boycott showed that when the community worked together, they could pressure the bus system and city officials to make change.