**Civil Disobedience**

Civil disobedience is an active refusal to obey certain laws, demands or commands of a government or of an occupying power without resorting to physical violence.

Rosa Parks refused to release her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955.  She was arrested.  Following her arrest, a bus boycott by African Americans launched the civil rights movement to a national level.  Rosa described her refusal to give up her seat in the following way:

" For half of my life there were laws and customs in the South that kept African Americans segregated from Caucasians and allowed white people to treat black people without any respect.  I never thought this was fair, and from the time I was a child, I tried to protest against disrespectful treatment.  But is was very hard to do anything about segregation and racism when white people had the power of the law behind them.  Somehow we had to change the laws."

Rosa Parks in 1955

Now, watch and/or listen to  [Yertle The Turtle](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FFfbSWbLWw) by Dr. Seuss.

Cover of Yertle the Turtle

Answer the following questions for this assignment:

* List at least ten parallels between Rosa Parks and the characters in Yertle the Turtle.

1. Those with African decent were doing all the work in society, just like the lower turtles.
2. Mack burped, which caused the tower to fall, while Ms. Parks refused to relinquish her seat.
3. Yertle claimed he was superior to the other turtles, while whites claimed they were superior.
4. Inevitably Yertle fell, as did segregation.
5. In both cases it took only the action of one individual that initiated the change.
6. There was no fundamental difference between Yertle and the other turtles, just like Rosa Parks and other whites
7. Both Yertle and white supremacists were making claims that were unsubstantiated.
8. Both Mack and Rosa Parks persevered until a point where they could no longer tolerate their injustice.
9. Yertle’s downfall was caused by making more and more ridiculous extremes. The same is true with white supremacists
10. In the case of Mack and in the case of Rosa Parks, it was direct action that lead to change.

* Who demonstrated civil disobedience?  Rosa Parks?  Yertle?  Mack?  Justify your answer fully.

Rosa Parks, as well as Mack, demonstrated civil disobedience. They both acted in a non-violent way to protest their oppressors, and in both cases they caused a change in the status quo.