

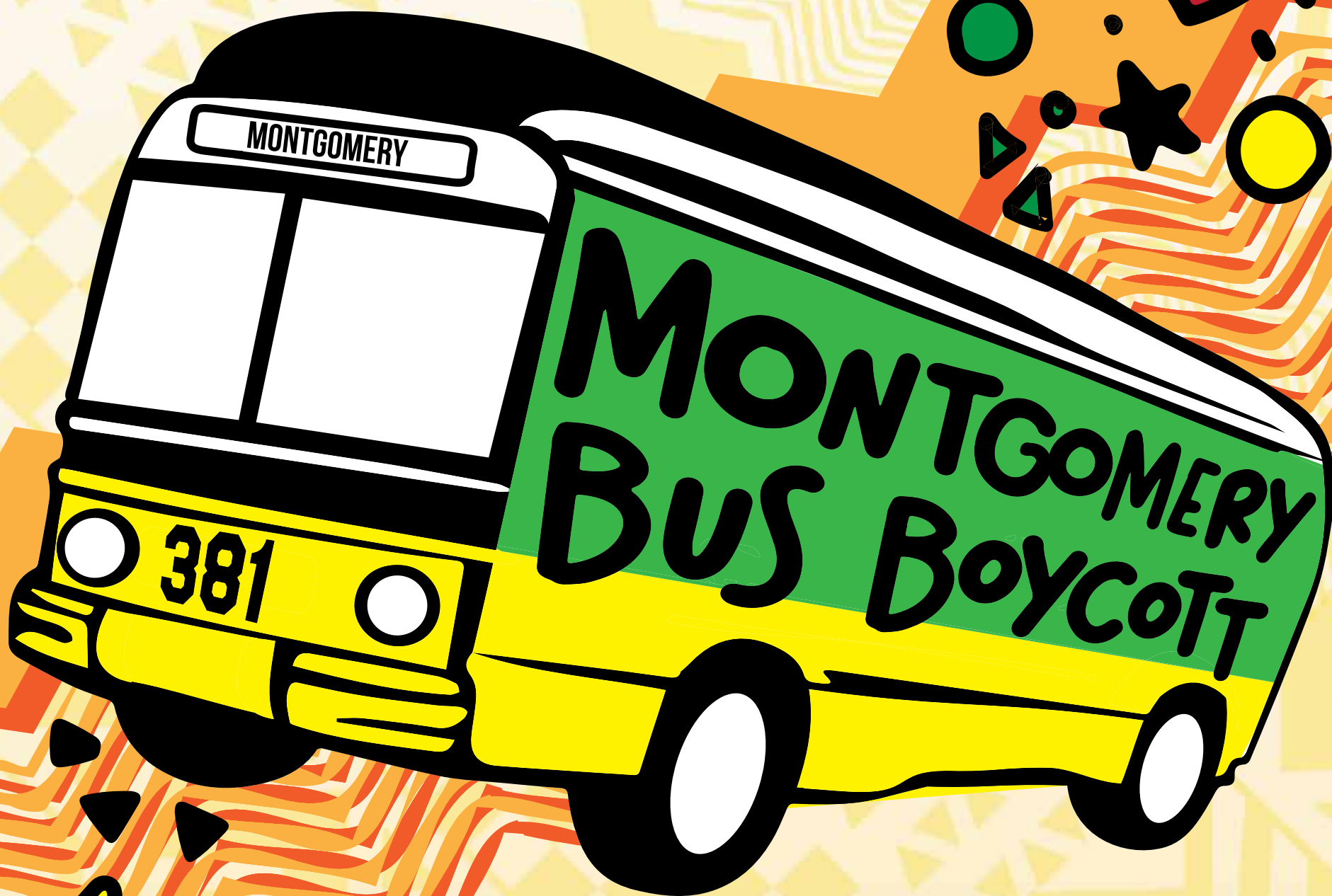
BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

AGES 9 - 12



MEMORIES OF OUR LIVES, OF OUR WORKS AND
OUR DEEDS WILL CONTINUE IN OTHERS.

- ROSA PARKS

CLAUDETTE BEFORE ROSA



When most people hear the phrase “**Montgomery Bus Boycott**,” the first name they think of is Rosa Parks. While Rosa Parks made a **significant** impact in the Civil Rights Movement, her actions were inspired by 15-year-old Claudette Colvin.

In March 1955, nine months before Rosa Parks’ actions, Claudette Colvin and her friends took the bus home from school. Back then, in Montgomery, Alabama, Black people were required to sit on the back of the bus, and white people sat in the front. The bus driver had the authority to assign seats and ask people to move. That day, all of the seats were taken and Claudette and her friends were seated in the middle of the bus.

A white passenger got on the bus, and the driver asked Claudette and her friends to move. Claudette’s friends moved, but Claudette did not. After the event, Claudette said, “He wanted me to give up my seat for a white person, and I would have done it for an elderly person, but this was a young white woman. Three of the students had got up reluctantly, and I remained sitting next to the window.”

The driver, furious about Claudette’s actions, kept driving until he spotted a police car. The driver allowed the policemen to board the bus and interrogate Claudette. Claudette still refused to give up her seat. The policemen grabbed Claudette and took her off of the bus. They put her in handcuffs and into the police car. Instead of taking Claudette to a **juvenile detention center**, they took her to an adult jail. Claudette was put in a small cell with nothing in it but a broken sink and a cot without a mattress. After three hours, Claudette’s mother and pastor **bailed** her out.

After Claudette was released, there were fears that her home would be attacked. Her community acted as lookouts, while Claudette’s father sat up all night with a shotgun in case the Ku Klux Klan turned up.

Claudette was the first person to be arrested for defying Montgomery’s bus **segregation** policies, so her story made a few local papers - but nine months later, the same act of defiance by Rosa Parks was reported all over the world.

The **NAACP** received many letters of support about Claudette’s protest, and it sparked the idea for the Montgomery Bus Boycott. After Claudette’s arrest, she was befriended by a seasoned NAACP official named Rosa Parks. Claudette remembers Rosa as a reserved but kind woman who fixed her snacks of peanut butter on Ritz crackers.

The NAACP chose Rosa Parks to serve as the face of the Montgomery Bus Boycott because they felt an adult was more appropriate for the boycott. They set their plan into action. Nine months after Claudette’s actions, as planned by the NAACP, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat too.



READ & WRITE

After this, many people resisted using Montgomery's public transportation to end the policy that prevented the hiring of Black bus drivers and bus segregation. To sustain the boycott, communities organized carpools and Montgomery's Black taxi drivers charged only 10 cents - the same price as bus fare - for fellow African Americans.

A year later, on December 20, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on the buses must end. The legal case used the testimony of four plaintiffs; one of those plaintiffs was Claudette Colvin.

1. BASED ON THE TEXT ABOVE, HOW DID CLAUDETTE COLVIN'S ACTIONS SPARK THE IDEA FOR MONTGOMERY'S BUS BOYCOTT? USE TEXT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.

2. WHAT CAN YOU INFER ABOUT CLAUDETTE'S FAMILY, BASED ON THE ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER HER PROTEST? LIST THEM.



GLOSSARY

Montgomery Bus Boycott: The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a civil-rights protest during which African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating.

Significant: sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy.

Juvenile Detention Center: a prison for people under the age of majority (18 years.)

Bailed: the temporary release of an accused person awaiting trial, sometimes on the condition that a sum of money is lodged to guarantee their appearance in court.

Segregation: the action or state of setting someone or something apart from other people or things or being set apart.

NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

REWRITING HISTORY



Claudette Colvin credits her schooling in an all-Black school rooted in Black History for her protest. She says the month that she didn't give up her seat was a month after Negro History Month (now Black History Month). If it weren't for stories of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and more, she wouldn't have had the moment that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Claudette also says that at the time, the NAACP didn't feel like a teenager was the right choice for the face of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They chose to use Rosa Parks instead. We know that children, teenagers, and young people all over the world have changed the course of history for years. We must tell the CORRECT history, to inspire the future. You are the future.

DIRECTIONS: Below, you'll find a short text about Rosa Parks. Read it closely. The paragraph is a summary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that you will find in most history and social studies classrooms across the world. After reading about Claudette Colvin, YOU know that there's more to the story. We want you to rewrite history for the generations to come. Below the paragraph about Rosa Parks, we challenge you to write three facts about each person underneath their picture. Don't forget to color them in! We can't wait to read your work!

THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT (OLD VERSION)



The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a civil-rights protest during which African Americans refused to ride city buses in Montgomery, Alabama, to protest segregated seating. The boycott took place from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956, and is regarded as the first large-scale U.S. demonstration against segregation. Four days before the boycott began, Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested and fined for refusing to yield her bus seat to a white man. Her bravery led to nationwide efforts to end racial segregation. U.S. Supreme Court ultimately ordered Montgomery to integrate its bus system, and one of the leaders of the boycott, a young pastor named Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged as a prominent leader of the American civil rights movement.



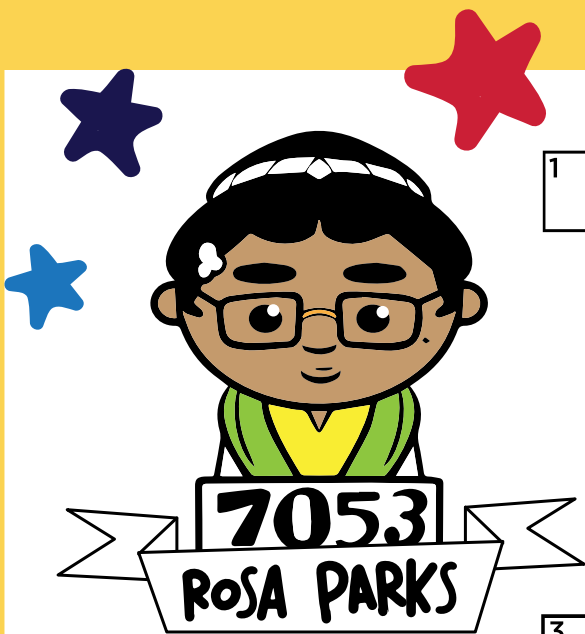
BECAUSE OF CLAUDETTE

THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT (NEW VERSION)

***Thinking Question: How do we ensure that Claudette Colvin's actions aren't lost in your version of history?*



CROSSWORD



1 2

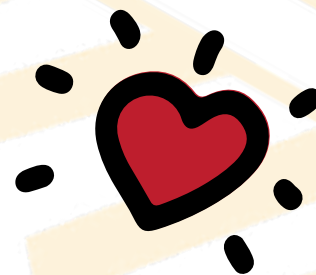
MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

DEC 5, 1955 – DEC 20, 1956

3

4

5



ACROSS:

1. The 2nd Woman to Refuse to Give Up Her Bus Seat.
3. A 15 Year Old Girl that Sparked a Movement.
5. The Capital City of Alabama.

DOWN:

2. The Action or State of Setting Someone or Something Apart from Other People or Things Being Set Apart.
4. To refuse to Buy, Use, or Participate in (something) as a way of protesting.



ANSWERS:
 (1) Rosa Parks (2) Segregation (3) Claudette Colvin
 (4) Boycott (5) Montgomery

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
 THE SACRIFICES OF
 MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
 IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
 MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
 OTHERS ALONG
 THE WAY.