

TEXT SET TOPIC: Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Role of Black Women

Grade Level Recommendation: Grades 3-5

Key Focus Areas for Design:

Counternarratives Current Events Identity Language **Perspectives** **Social Justice**

Topic: This text set is about the role of Black women during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Context/Rationale/Reflections: The Civil Rights Movement is often taught from the perspective of men leading the movement. This lesson highlights the contributions and leadership of the women whose experiences inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott.



Resources to build teacher background knowledge:

[Before Rosa Parks, There Was Claudette Colvin](#): This article/audio file tells about Claudette Colvin, who at age 15 was arrested for refusing to vacate her seat on the bus 9 months before Rosa Parks' well known action.

[Jo Ann Robinson biography](#): This biography highlights the life and accomplishments of Jo Ann Gibson Robinson, including the role she played in starting and sustaining the Montgomery bus boycott.

[Browder v. Gayle, 352 U.S. 903](#): This resource provides a summary of the court case that challenged the city ordinances requiring bus segregation, which was filed on behalf of four African American women (and includes the decision to *not* include Rosa Parks in this lawsuit).

[The Case That Ended Montgomery Bus Boycott](#): This article further expands on the case history and outcomes.



A note for multilingual students:



Text Sets are meant to support knowledge building! Support opportunities for student [translanguaging](#) while using this text set by encouraging students to write, discuss, and present in their home language(s), English, or a combination while they are learning.

Text/ Resource	Author/ Creator	Brief Description/Notes	Why use this resource?	Considerations for using this resource
Rosa BOOK	Nikki Giovanni Illustrated by Bryan Collier	This book describes how a seemingly normal day sparked a movement because Rosa Parks "...had not sought this moment but was ready for it." It depicts Mrs. Parks as a strong woman who made a conscious decision to take courageous action for justice.	Conveys Mrs. Parks's complete understanding of the injustice in the moment and her decision to take action for justice. Draws connections to the US Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board that separate is "inherently unequal." Names community working together and not that a single person made the change.	A video version of this text is available here . Consider how this text reflects a counternarrative of Rosa Parks' story to the dominant narrative in canonical text. Consider the impact of the story being told by Nikki Giovanni, born in TN, who was 12 years old when Rosa Parks was arrested. How does her proximity to the era of the Civil Right Movement influence the telling of this story?
Newsela - Civil Rights Activists: Claudette Colvin ARTICLE	Biography.com, adapted by Newsela staff	This article tells the story of Claudette Colvin, who was arrested at 15 years old for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus. This courageous act took place months prior to Rosa Parks making her own courageous decision.	Offers a narrative that is left untold in the progressive movement leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	In the article, Claudette Colvin is quoted as feeling like Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman were inspiring her. Consider exploring the different ways that each of these women demonstrated social action for advocacy and change. How are these actions similar?
Jo Ann Robinson - Alabama Legacy Moment VIDEO	Alabama Public Television	This brief video tells the viewer about Jo Ann Robinson and her contribution to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	Tells the narrative of who organized and publicized the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	The Montgomery Bus Boycott was accomplished by more than Martin Luther King, Jr.'s efforts. Consider the various tasks and responsibilities it takes to successfully organize and carry out collective action. What skills do individuals hold that when combined with others can lead to social change?

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Walking PAINTING	By Charles Henry Alston	This painting captures the role women played in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	<p>Offers an artistic work of Black painter.</p> <p>Offers artistic expression of the contributions of women in the Civil Rights Movement.</p>	Many photographs of the Civil Rights Movement are in black & white. Consider exploring additional artwork or colorized photos of this time in history. How does adding color create shifts in how we view this time or people from this time in history?
Keep Your Hand on the Plow SONG	Sung by Mahalia Jackson	This gospel hymn is said to have inspired “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize,” a song that kept the Black community focused and determined during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	Explores connections between the church and many of the gatherings during the Montgomery Bus Boycott.	Consider the role of the church and religion in taking action for social change.
Keep Your Eyes on the Prize SONG	Sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock	This song became a Civil Rights Movement anthem in the 1950s and 60s. Lyrics often attributed to activist Alice Wine.	Provides opportunity to listen to the music that kept Black people encouraged and inspired.	Consider how music played a role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. What is expressed in the lyrics of this song?