



**Rosa Parks** was born in 1913. In the early 1940s she became a member and then secretary of the NAACP in Montgomery, Alabama. She was also an advisor to the NAACP Youth Council. She tells the story of a 15 year-old African American high school girl whose action was a big motivator for Rosa's own decision with regard to the bus. In March 1955, the girl refused the driver's order to vacate her seat on the bus and was arrested. Rosa was very disturbed by this, and on December 1 of that year, she was riding the bus home from work. She was seated in the seats behind the white section. The driver came back and told her and three other Blacks to stand so he could seat one white person. Rosa refused and was arrested and taken to city jail. The decision was made to use her case to challenge racial segregation on the Montgomery buses. The young people in the community immediately suggested that they get the word out to the entire Black community not to ride the buses. That boycott was in many ways the visible beginning of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1987, with longtime friend Elaine Eason Steele, Parks founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. The organization runs "Pathways to Freedom" bus tours, introducing young people to important civil rights and Underground Railroad sites throughout the country. In 1996, Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She died at age 92 in 2005.

#### **SOME BOOKS FOR THE FAMILY:**

**ROSA.** Nikki Giovanni (author) Bryan Collier (illustrator). Square Fish, 2007. 4-8 years. This is the story of Rosa Parks, told from a unique and compelling perspective.

#### **LET IT SHINE: STORIES OF BLACK WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS.**

Andrea Davis Pinkney (author) and Stephen Alcorn (illustrator). Clarion Books, 2013. 6-9 years. Rosa Parks is one of 10 illustrious women freedom fighters highlighted in this book.

**ROSA PARKS: MY STORY.** Rosa Parks (author) Jim Haskins (illustrator).

Puffin Books. 1999. 8-12 years. In this book Rosa Parks goes beyond the bus boycott and talks about her role in the Civil Rights movement. Compelling.

#### **REFLECTIONS BY ROSA PARKS: THE QUIET STRENGTH AND FAITH OF A WOMAN WHO**

**CHANGED A NATION.** Rosa Parks (author) Gregory Reed (illustrator) Zondervan. 2018. (Adult) This book celebrates the principles and convictions that guided Rosa through her life of courage and remarkable sustained advocacy for justice.

#### **MOVIES/VIDEOS FOR THE FAMILY:**

**BOYCOTT (2001)** This movie is one of the best films that describe life in the 1950s. You get to understand the tension, dangers, and impact of Park's refusal to stand up on the Montgomery bus.

#### **MIGHTY TIMES: THE LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS (2002)**

This film is exceptionally educational for college students on the heroine and impact on the civil rights movement.

#### **BEHIND THE MOVEMENT (2018)**

Meta Golding shines in one of the more recent portrayals of Rosa Parks' standoff on the bus. It focuses on how her actions spurred the civil rights movement.

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