

NEWS HEADLINES – ROSA PARKS

Newspaper reports focus on different aspects of events depending on what appeals to their readers. Create a headline for each of these articles about Rosa Parks, whose actions helped the struggle for racial equality in the USA.



It could be said that Rosa Parks, brought up and educated in a segregated society in Alabama, was destined to become part of the struggle for racial equality. Much of her childhood experience was touched by discrimination. Segregated schools (i.e. separate schools for black and white children) were the rule, with black children missing out on basic equipment, such as desks.

In the city of Montgomery, for some time, there has existed a bus code, by which a bus driver assigns certain seats to white passengers and to black passengers. In practice, this has taken the form of a line separating white people, at the front, and African-Americans at the back. This has meant that an African-American passenger gets on at the front to pay the driver, then gets off to board again by the back door of the bus.

On 1st December 1955, 42-year-old Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus for home after a long day at the department store, where she was employed. When she was asked by the bus driver to give up her seat to a white person, she refused. Police were called and she was arrested; subsequently, released on bail.

Her supporters, including Martin Luther King Jnr called for a boycott of the Montgomery bus company. For many months, buses stood empty. In June 1956, the district court declared the practice of segregation unlawful. Almost a year after Rosa's action, the US Supreme Court upheld the decision.