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Activity Guide

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A Picture Book of Rosa Parks

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ABOUT THE STORY

The great-granddaughter of slaves, Rosa Parks was born in 1913. She grew up in an area of Alabama where discrimination against African Americans was common and legal. Rosa believed this was wrong, and one day challenged the unfair segregation laws by refusing to give up her seat on the public bus to a white person. After being arrested, Parks' case went to the Supreme Court, which ruled that segregation was illegal. Rosa Parks dedicated her life to working to gain civil rights for African Americans. Her efforts were rewarded with several awards and have helped bring an end to legal discrimination in the United States.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Adler has become well respected through his many biographical works which introduce young readers to famous Americans. In his books, Adler emphasizes the triumphant success of the person in light of the challenges they faced during their lives. There are currently over 25 titles in his biographical series "A Picture Book of...", many of which are also available as Live Oak Media Readalongs. Mr. Adler lives in New York with his wife and children. He is the author of more than seventy books for young readers.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Robert Casilla, a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City, has illustrated several biographies of important Americans. His works have appeared in *Black Experience Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and several other publications. He lives with his wife and son in Yonkers, NY

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Discuss the Civil Rights Movement with the children. What do they know about it? Can they name any people or events connected with the movement? Be sure that the children understand what civil rights are. Then introduce this book by explaining that Rosa Parks was a very important woman who helped African Americans gain equal opportunities in the United States during the Civil Rights Movement.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

Discuss the following questions with the children.

1. What was a "Jim Crow law"?
2. What organization did Rosa Parks join in the 1940s?
3. What was the purpose of this organization?
4. Why did Rosa refuse to give up her seat on the bus?
5. After Rosa was arrested, she brought her case to the Supreme Court of the United States. What did the Supreme Court decide?
6. Why did Rosa and her husband form the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development?

Vocabulary

There are several difficult words that young readers may not recognize. Be sure to define each of these terms and be sure the children understand their meanings.

discrimination, humiliated, foreigners, organizations, candidates, citizen arrested, boycott, oppression, association, segregation, Ku Klux Klan

Language Arts: What is a Biography

Discuss what a biography is and how "A Picture Book of Rosa Parks" fits this description. Have children each select a person whose biography they would like to read. Go to the library media center and locate books on their chosen subject. Give extra credit to those who read the book, or develop a project based on the selected biography.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

History/Listening/Creative Writing Skills "I Have a Dream"

Have the children listen to a recording of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Discuss with the children how they felt while listening to it. Imagine how African Americans must have felt the first time they heard it. Next, have children work in pairs to write a short persuasive speech or essay. Explain that the essay should tell people about something they feel is very important. Share speeches with the class when done.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

Research Skills: People and Organizations

Divide children into six groups. Go to the library media center, and using print sources such as books, encyclopedias, or biographies and the Internet, locate information on each of the following six people or organizations. Use the information gathered to create a presentation for the rest of the group.

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP, Civil Rights Movement, Booker T. Washington, Ku Klux Klan, Martin Luther King, Jr.