

A. Read the story.

ABUS RIDE

into the history books

December 1, 1955 started as a normal day in Montgomery, Alabama. After work, Rosa Parks got on a bus in the downtown area. First, she paid her ten-cent fare. Then, as usual, she went to the section for black passengers. In those 5 days, the buses and other public places in several southern states in the USA were segregated. Only white people were allowed to sit in the front section of the bus. Rosa was mixed race: part African-American, part Native American and part Scots-Irish, but under the law she was black.

10 After a few stops, a white man got on. The bus was full and he couldn't find a seat. Rosa and three other passengers were sitting at the front of the 'coloured' section, and the driver, James Blake, told them to give up their seats and stand at the back. The other three passengers stood up, but 15 Rosa refused to move. The police came. They said that they would arrest her if she didn't move. Rosa told them that she wouldn't give up her seat and she was arrested.

Four days later, she was found guilty of breaking the law. The judge told her that she would have to pay a fine of \$14.

C. Answer the questions.

- 1 What was the bus driver's name? _____
- 2 How much was the fine? _____
- 3 What was Martin Luther King's job? _____
- 4 How long did the boycott last? _____
- 5 Why did Rosa leave Montgomery? _____
- 6 How old was she when she made her protest? _____

D. Which people in the text said these things?

Segregation is illegal.

You'll have to pay a fine of \$14.

You have to give up your seats and stand at the back.

We'll arrest you if you don't move.

We won't use the buses.

I won't give up my seat.

We're going to kill you.

B. Underline the expressions that have the same meanings as follows.

1. line 6: "separated according to colour"
2. line 15: "to say 'No' you won't do something"
3. line 19: "money you pay for breaking the law"
4. line 21: "not using something in protest"
5. line 23: "protests in the streets"
6. line 26: "the highest court in the USA"
7. line 26: "not allowed by the law"
8. line 32: "hit by a bullet from a gun"

20 While she was appearing in court, however, civil rights leaders organized a boycott of the buses. For 381 days the 42,000 black people of Montgomery said that they wouldn't use the buses. There were demonstrations in the streets, too. A young preacher, called Martin Luther King, led many 25 of these. Finally, just over a year later, the judges of the US Supreme Court said that segregation was illegal.

That wasn't the end of the story. It took a long time for things to change. In 1957, Rosa and her husband moved to Detroit after some people in Montgomery said that they 30 were going to kill her. Over the next few years, hundreds of people died in demonstrations, and in 1968 Martin Luther King himself was shot. However, Rosa's 'No' started a revolution that slowly changed American society. In 2008, Barack Obama became the first black person to be elected 35 president of the USA. Unfortunately, Rosa herself didn't live to see it. She died in 2005 at the age of 92.

E. Complete the sentences to report what people said. Use *said* or *told*.

1 The driver _____ the four black passengers that they...

2 Rosa _____ the driver that she...

3 The police _____ that they ...

4 The judge _____ her that...

5 The black people of Montgomery _____ that they...

6 The Supreme Court _____ that...

7 Some people in Montgomery _____ Rosa that...

F. Complete the last part of the sentences above. You may fill in the space above right away.