Rosa Parks

Have you ever been arrested for doing what's right? Have you ever been treated unfairly because you're different? This happened to Rosa Louise McCauley, born on the 4th February 1913. Rosa was originally from Montgomery, Alabama, USA and was treated differently because of her skin colour. Rosa will always be remembered for standing up for her race and herself even if it meant being arrested. This is her story.

After Rosa’s parents split up, she moved to a farm with her grandfather, mother and brother. At the age of 7, Rosa went to the shopping center with her grandad and noticed segregation in America for the first time. In 1932, Rosa married a barber named Raymond Parks, then she became Rosa Parks. Rosa and Raymond had no children.

Segregation in America began in the 1880's and people started to see a change in the 1950’s. Segregation is when people of a different race or religion get separated. In this time, segregation appeared in: toilets, theaters, entrances, buses and benches. The black people’s facilities were of a poorer quality.

At that time, black people and white people had to sit on different parts of buses, coloured people had to sit on the back of the bus, white people got to sit on the front of the bus and when the white section was full, black people had to give up their seats for them. On December 1st 1955 it was a normal day for Rosa, she was coming home from work on the bus and a white person asked her if she could get up but Rosa refused. After a while, the bus driver came and asked her to move, but she refused. When she didn't move, the bus driver called the police and when they asked her she still didn't budge. As a result, rosa was arrested.

To help Rosa, Martin Luther King Jr organised a Bus Boycott protest which meant people didn't go on buses but walked instead. This lasted for 381 days and over 40,000 black citizens (also some white people) participated. Sadly, Rosa was found guilty on the 5th of December and was charged with a $14 fine which was a lot for her. However, after this happened people started to listen…

In December 1956, Rosa succeeded in making a change, a new law was put in place that there would be no more segregation on buses anymore. People saw this as a catalyst for change.

As a result of Rosa’s actions, a Civil Rights Movement was led by Martin Luther King Jr to end racial discrimination and to gain equal rights under the law. The Civil Rights Movement was approved by the government in the late 1960’s. Rosa Parks passed away a hero on the 24th of October 2005 of natural causes.