

Tired Souls: King and the Montgomery Bus Boycott



Major Characters:

Martin Luther King Jr.

Rosa Parks

Frederick Douglass

Claudette Colvin

E.D. Nixon

Clifford Dunn

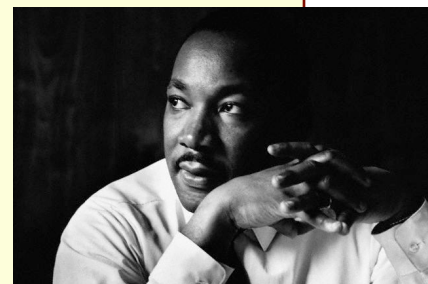
Jo Ann Robinson

Setting:

Montgomery, Alabama

1955

The 1st Five Days of the
Montgomery Bus Boycott.



The Montgomery Bus Boycott officially started on December 1, 1955. That was the day when the blacks of Montgomery, Alabama, decided that they would boycott the city buses

until they could sit anywhere they wanted, instead of being forced to the back or even stand when a white person boarded.....

It was not, however the day the movement to desegregate buses started-

In 1949 Jo Ann Robinson a black professor sat in the front of a segregated bus and then run off when a driver screamed at her for doing so. She attempted to start a political movement, but was brushed off, as the incident was called, "A fact of life in Montgomery



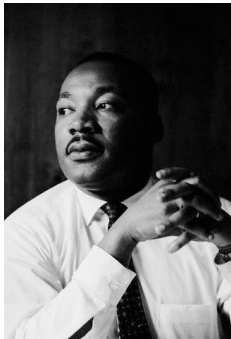
In the early 1950's a black pastor, Vernon Johns tried to get other blacks to leave a bus in protest after he was forced to give up his seat to a white man, only to have the other blacks tell him, "You ought to know better."

The Montgomery Improvement Association is Born:

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus and sat with three other blacks in the fifth row, the first row that blacks could occupy. A few stops later, the front four rows were filled with whites, and one white man was left standing. According to law, blacks and whites could not occupy the same row, so the bus driver asked all four of the blacks seated in the fifth row to move. Three complied, but Parks refused. She was arrested.



Martin Luther King, Jr., minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, thought that "if we could get 60 percent cooperation the



protest would be a success." He was pleasantly surprised when bus after empty bus rolled past his house that morning. "A miracle had taken place," King would later write. "The once dormant and quiescent Negro community was now fully awake." The group from Friday night met again that afternoon and decided to call themselves the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA). They elected King as president.

When the boycott began, no one expected it to last for very long. Despite all the pressures to end the boycott, blacks continued to stay off the buses.

They would no longer settle for the moderate desegregation plan that they had first proposed. Now, they would accept nothing less than full integration. The city was fighting a losing battle. The blacks were armed with the Brown V. Board decision, less than two years old, which said that the "separate but equal" doctrine had no place in public education. Surely it must follow that the doctrine had no place in any public facilities.

When the city defended segregation by saying that integration would lead to violence, Judge Rives asked, "Is it fair to command one man to surrender his constitutional rights, if they are his constitutional rights, in order to prevent another man from committing a crime?" The federal court decided 2-1 in favor of the blacks, with the lone dissent coming from a Southern judge. The city, of course, appealed the ruling, but on November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling, declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was officially over.





How do we behave in the theatre even if it's a cafeteria or gymnasium?

- No talking or whispering during the performance.
- Laughter at appropriate times only.
- Clap with enthusiasm.
- One needs to be still, no shuffling, or getting up during a performance.
- Keep body movements to a minimum. You can't get up and move around during the performance.
- No chewing gum or eating during the performance. In the theatre snacks are at intermission. One goes to the bathroom or gets a drink before seating for performance or at intermission ONLY.

- Show appreciation by clapping. The actors love to hear applause. This shows how much you enjoyed it.
- Don't leave your seat until the cast has taken their curtain call at the end. When the performance ends, wait patiently to exit.
- Be polite and attentive.
- TURN OFF ALL cell phones, pagers, beepers, alarms, any thing that can disturb the production, actors and the audience members during the performance. It is very impolite to have it go off during a performance.

For Your Information-

This play is a solo-play featuring one actor playing all the roles except for one, YOU, THE AUDIENCE.

