

THE MOTHER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Identify how Rosa Parks contributed to the civil rights movement in this country.
2. Understand the characteristics of good citizenship that were exhibited by Rosa Parks such as a belief in fairness and equality.
3. Analyze and synthesize information through the creation of a poem.

TEKS: SS K.2, K.15B,D, 1.1A, 1.12A,B, 1.17B,D, 1.18, 2.4A, 2.13A,B, 2.17B,E, 2.18

Materials: A Picture Book of Rosa Parks by David A. Adler or any other teacher-selected children's literature book about Rosa Parks, copies of the "I Am Poetry Form" for each student in the class, copies of the "I Am" attachment for each student

Vocabulary: arrested, boycott, civil rights, discrimination, segregation

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by informing students that February 4th is the birthday of a woman who was very courageous and was willing to take a stand against unfair laws. Relate that Rosa Parks has been called the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."
2. Write the word "segregation" on the board and ask students if they know what the term means. Explain that during much of Rosa's life there were unfair laws involving African Americans. They had to use separate drinking fountains, were only allowed to sit in the back of buses, and had to attend separate schools.
3. To further help students understand the term, the teacher may want to separate the girls from the boys and have them sit on opposite sides of the room. Tell one group that they will not be allowed to use the art supplies, eat in the cafeteria with the rest of the class, go to music class or P.E. with everyone else etc.) Have them discuss their feelings about being segregated and discriminated against.
4. Read the book A Picture Book of Rosa Parks by David A. Adler to the class.
5. Lead a discussion using the following questions:

- What do you think about Rosa being unwilling to give up her seat on the bus?
 - What would you have done if you were in her place?
 - What do you think the other people on the bus were thinking?
 - What characteristics of good citizenship did Rosa Parks possess? Explain with specific examples.
 - What question would you like to ask Rosa Parks if she were alive today? Why?
 - In your opinion, does Rosa Parks deserve the title “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement?” Why or why not?
6. Give students a copy of the “I Am Poetry Form”. Review the directions with students and have them complete the form. After the rough drafts have been proofread and corrected, students should complete their final copy on the “I Am” attachment.

Extension for Gifted/talented: Rosa Parks said, "To this day I believe we are here on the planet Earth to live, grow up and do what we can to make this world a better place for all people to enjoy freedom." Think about how you can make this world a better place in which to live. Create a book called “Ten Ways Kids Can Make the World a Better Place.” Include illustrations with each idea.

I AM POETRY FORM

Directions: In order to complete this poem, you will need to answer the following questions. The poem will be written from the viewpoint of Rosa Parks. Use your imagination and try to answer the questions as you think Rosa would answer them.

Who are you? I am Rosa Parks.

What did you do? I _____

What did you hear? I heard _____

How did you feel? I felt _____ because

What do you remember most? I remember _____

How do you feel now? Now I feel _____ because

What do you hope for? I hope _____

Who are you? I am _____

I AM

I am _____

I _____

I heard _____

I felt _____ because

I remember _____

Now I feel _____ because

I hope _____

I am _____

Written by: _____