

the  
Henry  
Ford®

# Building Stories

A writing contest for students  
Inspired by innovation stories past, present and future

Rosa Parks



# Building Stories

A writing contest for students

Inspired by innovation stories past, present and future

**About 3**

**Application 5**

## Foundational Materials

As you create your story for The Henry Ford's Building Stories: A writing contest for students, use these foundational materials as a starting point. You can and should conduct additional independent research. Be sure to cite your sources in your bibliography.

## Timeline

Part 1 – Rosa Parks' Early Life 7

Part 2 – The Montgomery Bus Boycott 15

Part 3 – The Legacy of Rosa Parks 20

All sources in this document are from the collections of The Henry Ford®. For more information on Building Stories: A writing contest for students, please visit: [www.thehenryford.org/BuildingStories](http://www.thehenryford.org/BuildingStories).

# About Building Stories

The rich history of innovation should encourage tomorrow's innovators — today's students. So we're inviting students from around the United States to write a creative story that celebrates Rosa Parks, one of America's greatest social innovators.

Students in grades 3-12 can enter for a chance to win prizes, with one talented student having his or her story published by The Henry Ford.

**Contest period:** October 1, 2015 to March 1, 2016

## How to Enter

1. Write a story using the Foundational Materials, which are resources related to Rosa Parks. These resources, along with other independent research, will give you historical information for framing your creative story.
2. Complete the application (parental permission is required), and submit with your story via email or mail by March 1, 2016. Available at:  
<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/pdf/buildingStoriesApplication.pdf>.

## Prizes

One first-prize winner each from grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 (three total) will be chosen.

**First prize:** A Family Membership to The Henry Ford and an iPad Air 16 GB. One first-prize winner each from grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 (three total) will be chosen.

**Grand prize:** One student selected from the first-prize winners will have his or her story published by The Henry Ford and will receive ten (10) personal copies of the printed booklet.

**Teacher prize:** The teacher of each first-prize winner will receive a \$250 gift card to The Henry Ford. This can be used for field trip admission or at our gift shop, on-site or online.

## To Get Started

It may be helpful to read previous years' winning stories. They are available online at:  
<http://www.thehenryford.org/education/buildingstories.aspx>

## Requirements

- Include a story title and author's name.
- Must be an original story related to theme of "*The Life and Times of Rosa Parks.*"
- Have a maximum of 1,500 words.

## Judging

Each story will be judged in four categories:

### Historical Understanding = 40%

- Refers to or involves Rosa Parks.
- Includes two or more artifacts from the Foundational Materials.
- Indicates research and cites sources.
- Is historically accurate.

### Creative and Original Writing = 20%

- Engages reader with original or creative ideas or perspectives.
- Chosen words and phrases bring energy to the story.

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*continued from previous page*

**Narrative Writing = 20%**

- Uses narrative techniques such as dialogue and description to develop characters and events.
- Organizes writing introduction, logical event sequence, smooth transitions and conclusion.

**Conventions = 20%**

- Is word-processed.
- Uses correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation and spelling.

Submissions will be divided into three grade groups for judging:

- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

**Curriculum Connections**

Educators can access Building Stories' connections to the Common Core State Standards and other standards at: <http://www.thehenryford.org/education/erb/CCSSBuildingStories.pdf> and <http://www.thehenryford.org/education/erb/CurrConnBuildingStories.pdf>.

**Official Rules**

Read the official rules at: <http://www.thehenryford.org/education/pdf/buildingStoriesContestRules.pdf>.

**Privacy Policy**

Read the privacy policy at: <http://www.thehenryford.org/privacy.aspx>.

A purchase of any kind will not increase your chances of winning. See Official Rules for details.



# Building Stories

A writing contest for students

Inspired by innovation stories past, present and future

## Application for Entry

Please complete the following form and submit it one of two ways:

1. Fill out the fields directly on your computer and save the file as participant's name, then email your application and your story to [BuildingStories@TheHenryFord.org](mailto:BuildingStories@TheHenryFord.org).
2. Print the form, complete by hand and mail your application and your story to:

The Henry Ford  
Attn: Education  
Building Stories  
20900 Oakwood Boulevard  
Dearborn, MI 48124

**Remember, your entry will only count if you submit the entire completed application form AND your story. All entries are due by March 1, 2016. Please refer to Official Rules and Prize Descriptions at [www.TheHenryFord.org/BuildingStories](http://www.TheHenryFord.org/BuildingStories) for complete contest details.**

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  Check if homeschooled (you do not need to fill out the school information).

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian consent is required to participate in this contest. Please complete the following information that will serve as permission for student to participate.**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for the student author to participate in The Henry Ford's Building Stories A writing contest for students.

# Foundational Materials

All sources in this document are from the collections of The Henry Ford.

## Rosa Parks Timeline

<b>February 4, 1913</b>	Is born in Tuskegee, Alabama
<b>1915</b>	Moves to grandparents' farm
<b>1924</b>	Begins to attend Montgomery Industrial School for Girls
<b>1932</b>	Marries Raymond Parks
<b>1943</b>	Becomes secretary and investigator for the Montgomery NAACP
<b>December 1, 1955</b>	Refuses to get out of her seat on a Montgomery bus
<b>December 5, 1955</b>	Montgomery bus boycott begins
<b>November 13, 1956</b>	Segregation on Montgomery buses is declared unconstitutional by U.S. Supreme Court
<b>December 21, 1956</b>	Bus boycott ends after 381 days
<b>1957</b>	Moves to Detroit
<b>1965</b>	Attends Selma-to-Montgomery march
<b>1965</b>	Is hired as a secretary for Congressman John Conyers
<b>1992</b>	Rosa Parks visits The Henry Ford
<b>September 9, 1995</b>	Receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom
<b>October 24, 2005</b>	Dies in Detroit



Part 1

**Rosa Parks’  
Early Life**

## Part 1

### Rosa Parks' Early Life



Rosa Louise McCauley was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, on February 4, 1913. From the age of 2, she lived on her grandparents' farm in Pine Level, Alabama. Rosa helped work on the farm, taking care of the animals and picking cotton. Rosa's grandparents had been slaves before Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. They strongly believed in equality and taught Rosa how important it is to stand up for yourself against unfair treatment.

### Mattox Family Home, Showing Life in 1930s

## Source 1

Rosa grew up on a farm much like this one. This is the Mattox Home, which is now in Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford. The Mattoxes were an African-American family who lived near Savannah, Georgia. In the early 1900s, it was difficult for African Americans to purchase land to farm. Many had to rent land or sharecrop. The Mattox family, like Rosa's grandparents, were one of the only African-American families in their community to own their own land.





### [Ku Klux Klan Robe and Hood, Circa 1925](#)

When Rosa was growing up, a group called the Ku Klux Klan, or the KKK, terrorized African Americans, especially in the South. They wanted to stop black people from having rights. They would beat up African Americans, burn their churches and homes, and even kill people. KKK members would dress in costumes that covered their faces, like the robe pictured here.

The KKK was a threat to Rosa and her family, marching up and down the road in front of her home. Rosa's grandfather kept his shotgun close at night to protect his family. Frightened yet courageous, Rosa slept on the floor next to him.

Part  
1

Rosa Parks' Early Life



Source  
3

**Students and Teacher in a One-Room School Near  
Richmond Hill, Georgia, Circa 1940**

When Rosa Parks was growing up, life in the South was mostly segregated by race. White people and black people could not be in the same places or use the same items. Rosa Parks attended a segregated one-room school in Pine Level, Alabama, much like the one above. Rosa was in a class with 50 students and one teacher.

Rosa Parks' mother was a teacher, and education was very important to the family. So Rosa's mother sent Rosa to live in the nearby big city of Montgomery, Alabama, to attend a private school for African-American girls. Rosa began at the Montgomery Industrial School when she was 11 years old. Rosa learned the usual classroom subjects like English, science and geography. She also learned the skill of sewing. Rosa later became a seamstress. Most important, the teachers reinforced Rosa's self-respect and personal dignity, regardless of race.

Part  
1

Rosa Parks' Early Life



In the South, public areas used by people of different races were segregated. Drinking fountains, public transportation, restaurants and restrooms were segregated. Courtrooms even had segregated Bibles to swear in witnesses. While there was discrimination against African Americans in Pine Level, the community was so small that it didn't have services like public transportation to segregate. Rosa first lived with intense segregation when she attended school in Montgomery.

Drinking Fountains, 1954 ("Colored" and "Whites Only")

Source  
4

Rosa remembered that, as a child, she wondered if the water from the "colored" fountain came in a variety of colors or tasted different than the water from the "white" drinking fountain.



Part  
1

Rosa Parks' Early Life



Source  
5

[Rodger Clark's No. 1 Barbershop, Atlanta, Georgia, 1935-1950](#)

Rosa married Raymond Parks when she was 19. Raymond (or Parks, as everyone called him) was a barber.

This photograph shows a black barbershop at about the time of Rosa and Raymond Parks' marriage. In those days, barbershops were a place where black men would gather to socialize and also talk about politics and other important issues like civil rights. Raymond was active in the civil rights movement.

He made black publications available in his barbershop. He also helped fund the defense of the Scottsboro Boys, young African-American men unfairly accused of a crime and sentenced to death. Raymond's activism was a big influence on Rosa.

Part  
1

Rosa Parks' Early life



Raymond was very active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This organization fought for racial equality. Rosa joined the NAACP in 1943 and became a secretary for her local chapter. An important part of her job was recording instances of injustice against African Americans in her area, because public courts were often unfair.

[“Join NAACP for Civil Rights 1953 Membership Campaign” Brochure](#)

Source  
6

This brochure from 1953 encourages people to join the NAACP. Rosa was a secretary for the NAACP at this time.



## Part 1

### Rosa Parks' Early Life

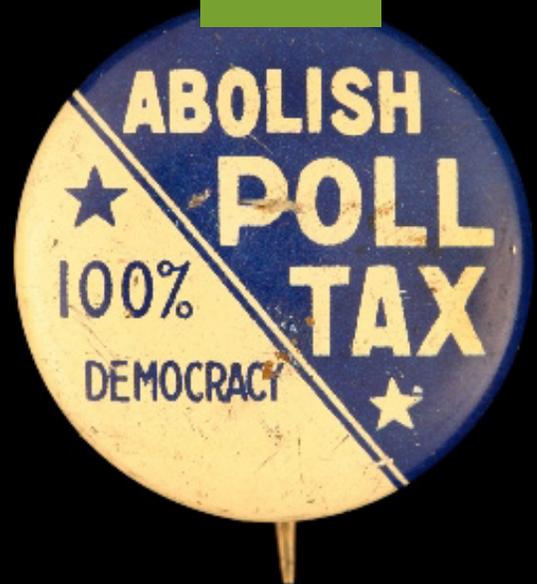
Rosa Parks knew that one of the keys to gaining civil rights was voting. African Americans were guaranteed the right to vote by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, but some states found ways to go around that. They would limit the time African Americans could register to vote to certain days and hours (usually midday, when everyone needed to be at work). Voting officials could also make African Americans take a literacy test. The questions were very difficult and confusing. Even if you did pass, the registrar could unfairly mark things wrong to make it look like you failed. Rosa Parks “failed” the literacy test twice before she finally hand-copied the questions and her answers so that she could prove she had answered correctly. On that third try, she passed and was finally registered to vote in 1945.

### Abolish Poll Tax: 100% Democracy Button, Circa 1940

Source  
7

Rosa’s last hurdle was to pay a poll tax, which is a fee in order to vote. Rosa Parks later explained, “If you were poor — which most blacks in Alabama were — and had no extra money, that meant you couldn’t vote.” Rosa had to pay \$16.50 in order to vote, which was a lot of money in 1945. The fee was so much because she had to pay a tax for every year that she hadn’t registered to vote since she was old enough to vote — even though she had tried unsuccessfully in the past! Rosa already had to work two jobs just to make ends meet (full-time as a clerk and part-time as a seamstress), but she somehow found the money to vote.

This button from 1940 calls for an end to the poll tax. The person, now unknown, who wore this button protested the injustice of paying to vote.





Part 2  
**The Montgomery  
Bus Boycott**

## Part 2

### The Montgomery Bus Boycott



For years, Rosa Parks had become familiar with civil rights actions while working for the NAACP, registering to vote and, in summer 1955, attending an empowering civil rights workshop in Tennessee.

Then Rosa took a courageous action that changed history. The rule on segregated buses was that African Americans sat in the back, while whites sat in the front. If the bus became full, African Americans toward the center of the bus were expected to give up their seats to whites. On December 1, 1955, while traveling home from work on a bus, Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white man. This sparked the Montgomery bus boycott and, ultimately, the civil rights movement.

### The Rosa Parks Bus

Source  
8

The very bus where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat is now located in Henry Ford Museum. People of all ages and races can board the bus, hear a recording of Rosa herself telling the story and even sit in her seat. To hear Rosa's dramatic story and learn about the bus where she changed history, watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjbDnOL3hCg>



# Part 2

## The Montgomery Bus Boycott



For a while, civil rights activists in Montgomery had been considering a boycott to protest the segregation of the bus system. Rosa Parks' arrest was the perfect spark for the boycott to take place.

### [Montgomery Bus Boycott Scrapbook, November 1955 - April 1957 \(Part 1 of 6\) \(p. 74\)](#)

Source  
9

This article describes Monday, December 5, 1955 — the first day of the boycott.

**Note:** While it is not the polite term today, the word “Negro” was commonly used to refer to African Americans in this time period.



## Part 2

### The Montgomery Bus Boycott

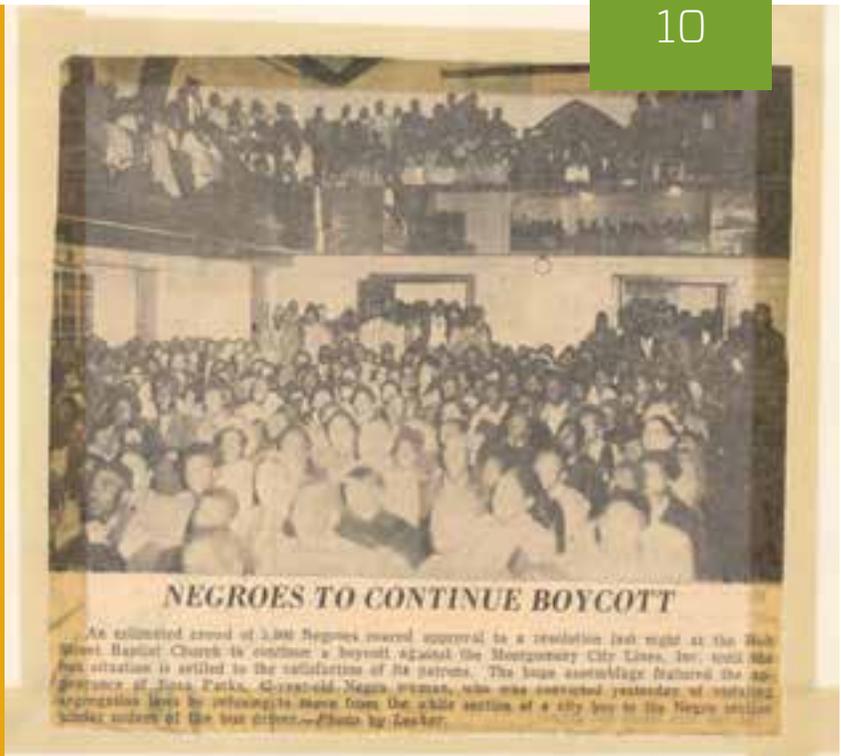
On the evening of December 5, a meeting of 5,000 African-American Montgomery residents voted to continue to boycott. Rosa Parks sat in front of the crowd with leaders of the meeting, including a young minister named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who led the boycott organization, which was called the Montgomery Improvement Association.

[Montgomery Bus Boycott Scrapbook, November 1955 - April 1957 \(Part 1 of 6\) \(p. 59\)](#)

Source  
10

For more than one year, most of the city's African Americans refused to ride segregated buses. Instead, they walked to work or school, crowded into taxis or got rides from other boycott supporters who owned cars. Boycott supporters endured threats and even violence.

Rosa Parks, who had lost her job, worked for the Montgomery Improvement Association. She distributed donated clothing and shoes to boycotters in need. She also was a dispatcher, helping arrange rides for 30,000 people to and from work every day.



Part  
2

The Montgomery Bus Boycott



Eventually, the Supreme Court decided that the segregation of buses in Montgomery and anywhere else was unconstitutional. Buses had to be desegregated. The decision was made in November 1956, but it was more than a month before the decision was law.

Montgomery Bus Boycott Scrapbook, November 1955 - April 1957 (Part 6 of 6) (p. 509)

Source  
11

On December 21, 1956, the bus boycott ended. Rosa Parks and all people were able to ride on buses in whatever seat they chose.





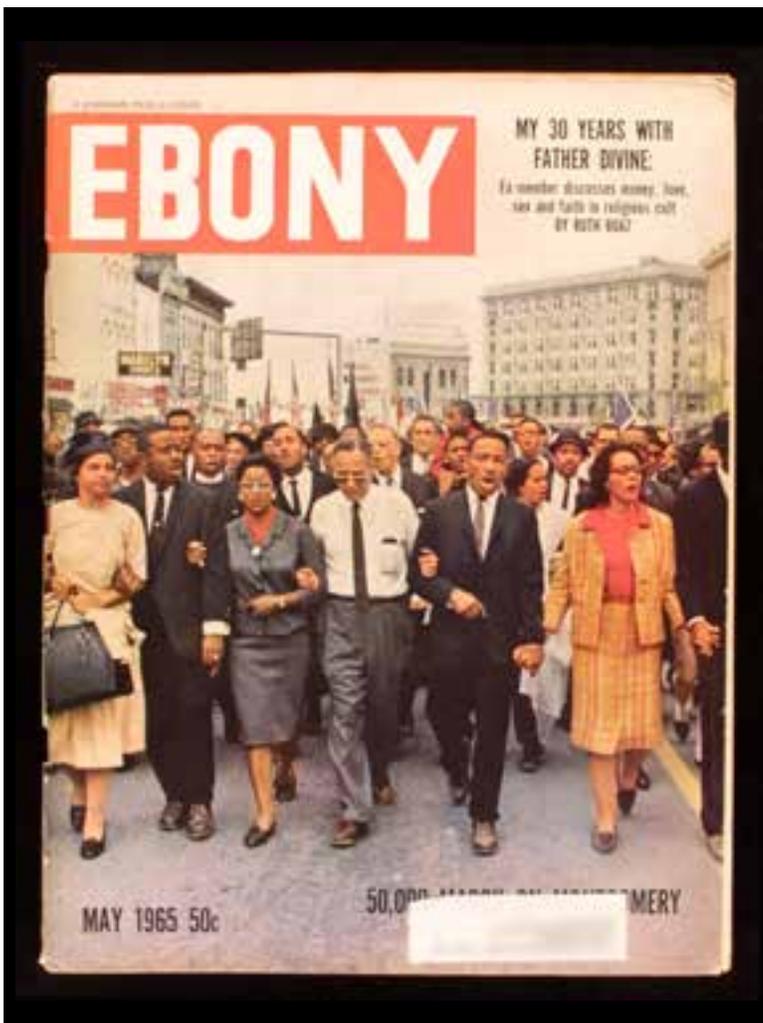
Part 3  
**The Legacy  
of Rosa Parks**

## Part 3

### The Legacy of Rosa Parks

In 1957, Rosa Parks, her husband and mother moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Rosa's brother lived. They hoped for better opportunity there. She continued to work as a seamstress. In 1965, she was hired as a secretary by U.S. Congressman John Conyers. She also helped the people he represented, for example, by finding housing for the homeless. She lived a simple life in Detroit but never stopped supporting those who sought equal rights.

## Source 12

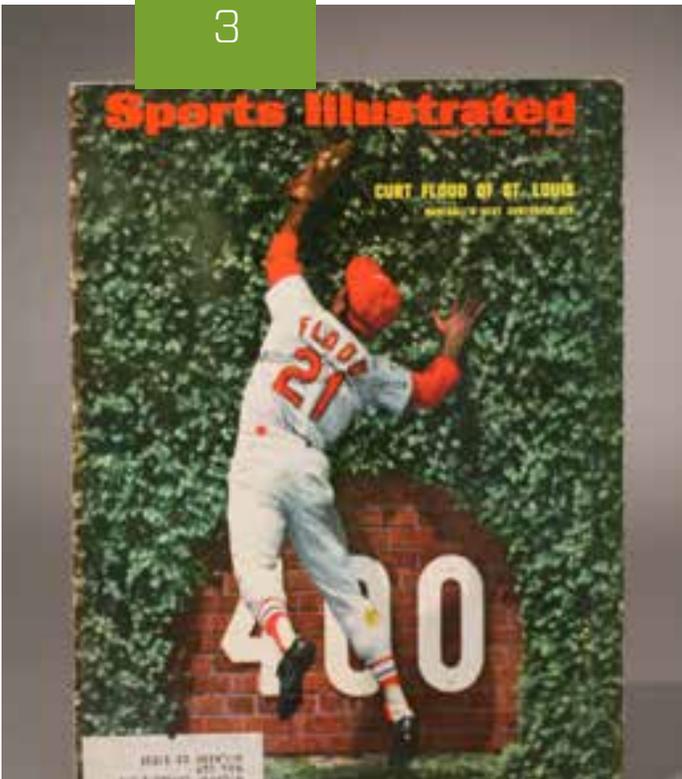


### [Ebony Magazine for May 1965, "50,000 March on Montgomery"](#)

Rosa Parks continued to be inspirational for the civil rights movement. This Ebony magazine cover depicts the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery with Rosa Parks (far left), Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Abernathy, Ralph Bunche, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King leading the march of 50,000 people. This nonviolent demonstration helped obtain legislation securing voting rights for all American citizens 21 years and older.

Part  
3

The Legacy of Rosa Parks

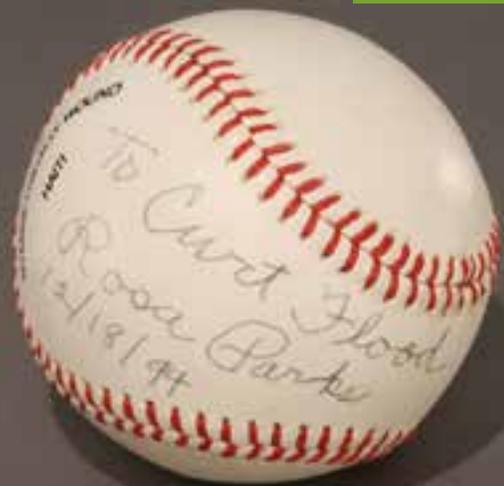


Rosa Parks inspired people in so many ways. Major League Baseball player Curt Flood followed her example and took a stand against segregation in baseball. He also stood up against the trading of baseball players against their wishes, saying he did not feel they should be “treated as property.” You can read his story here: [http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2010/10\\_feb.asp](http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2010/10_feb.asp).

[Autographed Baseball from Rosa Parks to Curt Flood, December 18, 1994](#)

Source  
13

Rosa Parks was one of Curt Flood’s heroes. When Curt met Rosa in 1994, she signed this baseball for him.





Source  
14

[Rosa Parks Bus Outside Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Where Rosa Parks Lay in Repose, November 1, 2005](#)

Rosa Parks continued to fight for the rights of Americans until her death in 2005. She inspired many people, including politicians, musicians, athletes and countless others throughout our country.

She died on October 24, 2005.

Rosa Parks was the first woman and second African American to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. In Detroit, people came to pay their respects at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The Henry Ford brought the Rosa Parks Bus to the Wright Museum, too.

Part  
3

**The Legacy of Rosa Parks**



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Source  
15

**President Obama on Rosa Parks Bus, April 2012**

Even after her death, Rosa Parks continues to inspire people. In April 2012, Barack Obama, our first American-American president, visited Henry Ford Museum and wanted to see the Rosa Parks Bus.

He stated, "I just sat in there for a moment and pondered the courage and tenacity that is part of our very recent history, but is also part of that long line of folks who sometimes are nameless, oftentimes didn't make the history books, but who constantly insisted on their dignity, their share of the American dream."

# Additional Resources

## In Print

Elementary Level:

Editors of TIME for Kids. *Rosa Parks: Civil Rights Pioneer*. Harper Collins, 1996.

Middle Level:

Parks, Rosa, with Jim Haskins. *My Story*. Dial Books, 1992.

High School Level:

Brinkley, Douglas. *Rosa Parks: A Life*. Penguin Books, 2005.

## Online

Braden, Donna. "Segregated Travel and the Uncommon Courage of Rosa Parks." The Henry Ford. [http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2013/13\\_feb.asp](http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2013/13_feb.asp)

McCabe, Jim. "A Rosa Parks Baseball?" The Henry Ford. [http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2010/10\\_feb.asp](http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2010/10_feb.asp)

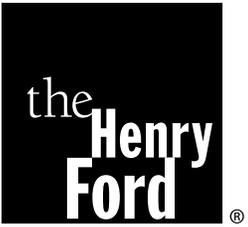
McMillian, Angela. "A Guide to Materials for Rosa Parks." Library of Congress. <http://www.loc.gov/tr/program/bib/rosaparks/rosaparks.html>

"Photo: President Obama Sits in Rosa Parks Bus." National Public Radio. April 19, 2012. <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2012/04/19/150970124/photo-president-obama-sits-in-rosa-parks-bus>

"Rosa Parks Biography." <http://www.biography.com/people/rosa-parks-9433715#early-life-and-education>

"Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Hero." OnInnovation. The Henry Ford. <http://www.oninnovation.com/innovators/detail.aspx?innovator=Parks>

"The Rosa Parks Bus." The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjbDnOL3hCg>



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