

Non-Fiction: Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was an African-American woman who made history with her comparatively small action of sitting still on a bus, which went on to spark major changes in American society.

Early Life

Rosa Parks was born Rosa Louise McCauley on 4th February, 1913. After her parents separated, she grew up on a farm with her mother, brother and grandparents in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. She grew up in a time when America was segregated before the Civil Rights Act was enforced.



Segregation in America

Segregation meant black and white people had to be separated by law in many ways. They had separate toilets, water fountains, entrances to public buildings and black and white children had to go to separate schools. It was also clearly apparent that black facilities were of a poorer standard than white facilities. So not only were black and white people segregated; black people were treated as second-class citizens within society.



The Bus Ride That Changed History

On 1st December, 1955, Rosa Parks was travelling home from work on a bus and sitting – as rules required – in the black section to the rear of the bus. Bus companies prioritised seating for white people and moved black people further back, or made them stand if the white section was full and a white person needed a seat. This happened to Rosa and she was told to move further

back to give her seat to a white person...but she refused to move. She was threatened with police action but she stayed sat still, adamant that she would not follow the 'rules'. Eventually, the police arrested, charged and fined her for breaking the law.

What Happened Next?

Amazingly, Rosa's defiance unleashed a wave of protest. Around 40 000 black

citizens (and some white citizens) supported the 'Montgomery Bus Boycott'. The profits of the bus companies fell and the sheer size of the movement could not be ignored. The press reported it all over America and the boycott went on for 381 days. It gained the attention of the USA government and just over a year later, in December 1956, the unfair segregation on buses was lifted.

Rosa's small actions made history as they acted as a catalyst for the Civil Rights movement, which eventually succeeded. Even though it wasn't the end of segregation and civil rights still had a long way to go, it was a victory for the rights of black people within society.

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

Parks, Rosa; James Haskins (1992). Rosa Parks: My Story. Dial Books. p. 116

Questions

1. ...Rosa's small actions made history as they acted as a catalyst for the Civil Rights movement ...

V

What does the word catalyst mean in this context? **Tick one.**

It ended the Civil Rights movement.

☐

It accelerated the Civil Rights movement.

☐

It advertised the Civil Rights movement.

☐

It won the Civil Right movement.

☐

2. In the 'Segregation in America' section, the author uses the words 'second-class citizens'. Explain what you think this means.

A

3. What are the key themes of the text? **Circle two.**

R

Rosa Parks' early life.

Segregation in America in the 1950s.

Rosa Parks' bus protest in 1955.

How seats are organised on public buses.

4. Tick whether the following statements are true or false.

R

	True	False
Rosa grew up on a farm.		
Facilities for white people were of a poorer standard than those segregated for black people.		
Rosa was arrested for not moving from her seat on the bus.		
Rosa's actions ended segregation in America.		

5. Rosa was born Rosa Louise McCauley. Why do you think her name changed?

I

6. If you were to describe Rosa, what type of person would you say she was?

I

Explain your answer.

7. Were all white citizens of the opinion that black people should be made to sit at the back of the bus? **Explain your answer.**

C

8. Match the statement with the date it happened.

R

1956

Rosa refused to move seats.

1955

Rosa Parks was born.

1913

Segregation on buses is lifted.

9. Part of the text is placed in a purple box. Why has the author done this?

C

10. Write down a compound adjective from the text.

V

Answers

1. ...Rosa's small actions made history as they acted as a catalyst for the Civil Rights movement ...

What does the word catalyst mean in this context? **Tick one.**

It ended the Civil Rights movement.

☐

It accelerated the Civil Rights movement.

☒

It advertised the Civil Rights movement.

☐

It won the Civil Right movement.

☐

2. In the 'Segregation in America' section, the author uses the words 'second-class citizens'. Explain what you think this means.

Accept references to: people who were not treated as valued member of society / people treated differently to others / people treated worse than others / people who don't have the same rights as others

3. What are the key themes of the text? **Circle two.**

Rosa Parks early life.

Segregation in America in the 1950s.

Rosa Parks bus protest in 1955.

How seats are organised on public buses.

4. Tick whether the following statements are true or false.

	True	False
Rosa grew up on a farm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities for white people were of a poorer standard than those segregated for black people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosa was arrested for not moving from her seat on the bus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosa's actions ended segregation in America.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Rosa was born Rosa Louise McCauley. Why do you think her name changed?

She got married.

6. If you were to describe Rosa, what type of person would you say she was? **Explain your answer.**

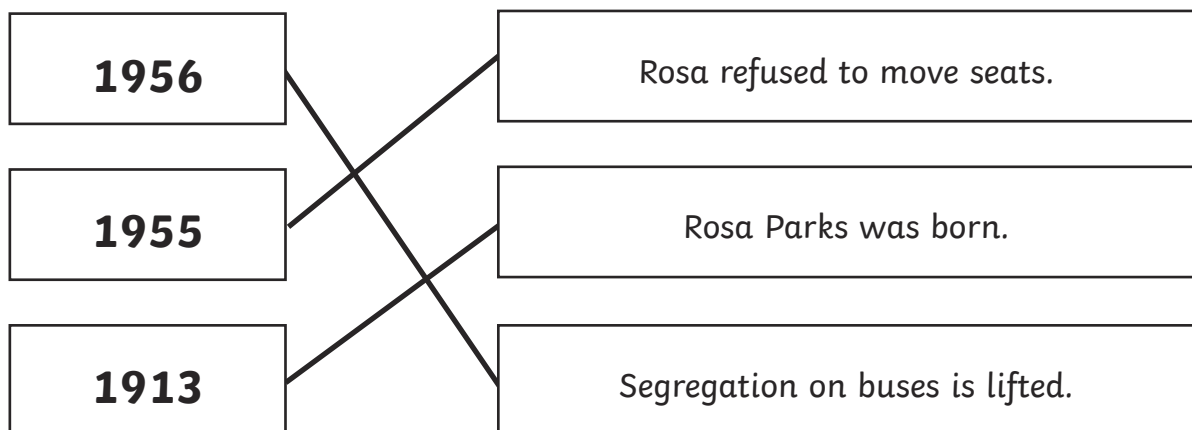
Accept answers that reference:

- **brave – she stood up for her rights / risked jail**
- **calm – she didn't use violence in an unfair situation**
- **stubborn/determined – she refused to move from her seat /she never gave up**
- **proud – for being proud of who she was**

7. Were all white citizens of the opinion that black people should be made to sit at the back of the bus? **Explain your answer.**

No. It states that some white citizens supported the 'Montgomery Bus Boycott'.

8. Match the statement with the date it happened.



9. Part of the text is placed in a purple box. Why has the author done this?

The author has used a purple box because it is a quote from Rosa Parks and he wants it to stand out from the rest of the text.

10. Write down a compound adjective from the text.

African-American or second-class

The Tyger

By William Blake

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies.
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?



Questions

1. Look at verse 1 of the poem. Find and copy one word meaning 'to live forever'

V

2. In the poem, where can the tiger be found?

R

3. In your own words, what is the poem about?

S

4. In verse 4, Blake suggests that the tiger is made by...

I

Tick one.

a sculptor ☐

a painter ☐

a blacksmith ☐

a carpenter ☐

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

A

The poet uses 'burning bright' when referring to...

the sun

the forest

the tiger

6. Is this a modern poem? Explain your answer.

C

7. Write down two examples of alliteration from the poem?

V

8. In verse 5, the poet writes 'Did he who made the lamb make thee?'

A

Who is the 'he' the poet is referring to?

Answers

1. Look at verse 1 of the poem. Find and copy one word meaning 'to live forever'
immortal

2. In the poem, where can the tiger be found?
in the forests (of the night)

3. In your own words, what is the poem about?

The poem is about a tiger. The poet is questioning who could have created such a beautiful but fearsome creature.

4. In verse 4, Blake suggests that the tiger is made by...

Tick one.

a sculptor ☐

a painter ☐

a blacksmith ☒

a carpenter ☐

5. Circle the correct option to complete the sentence below.

The poet uses 'burning bright' when referring to...

the sun

the forest

the tiger

6. Is this a modern poem? Explain your answer.

This isn't a modern poem because it uses words that aren't used today such as 'thee', 'thy' and 'thine'

7. Write down two examples of alliteration from the poem?

Examples may include: 'Tyger, Tyger', 'burning bright', 'frame thy fearful', 'distant deeps', 'began to beat', 'on what wings'.

8. In verse 5, the poet writes 'Did he who made the lamb make thee?'

Who is the 'he' the poet is referring to?

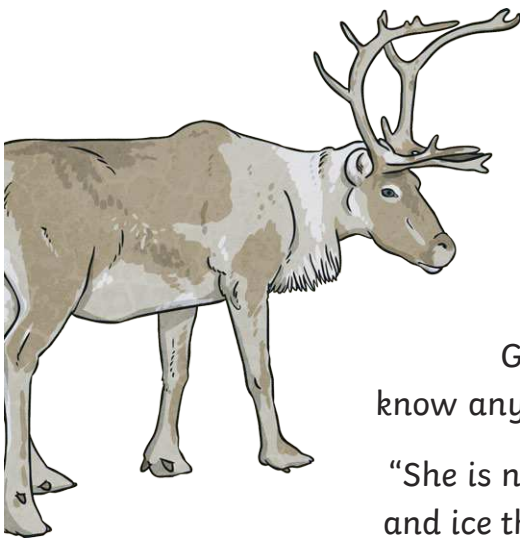
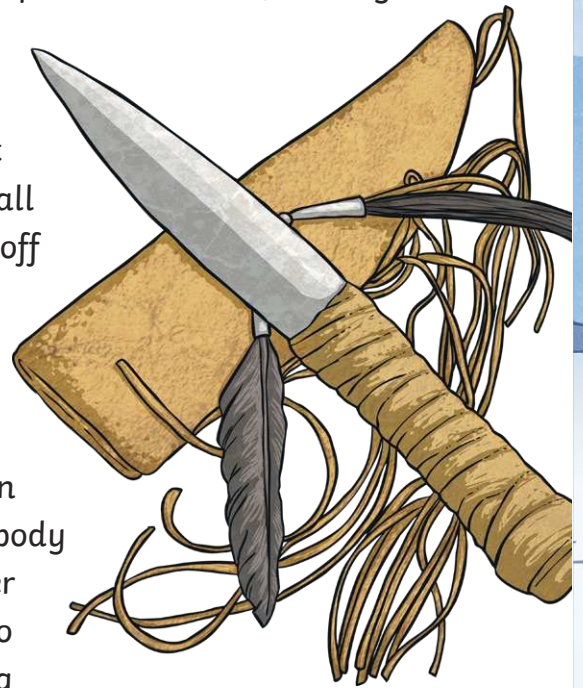
This is a reference to God.

Fiction: The Snow Queen

by Hans Christian Andersen

"Do you intend to keep your knife while you sleep?" asked Gerda; looking at it rather fearfully.

"I always sleep with the knife," said the little robber maiden. "There is no knowing what may happen. But tell me now, once more, all about little Kay; and why you have started off in the wide world alone." And Gerda related all, from the very beginning: the Wood-pigeons cooed above in their cage, and the others slept. The little robber maiden wound her arm round Gerda's neck, held the knife in the other hand, and snored so loud that everybody could hear her; but Gerda could not close her eyes, for she did not know whether she was to live or die. The robbers sat round the fire, sang and drank; and the old female robber jumped about so, that it was quite dreadful for Gerda to see her.



Then the Wood-pigeons said, "Coo! Coo! We have seen little Kay! A white hen carries his sledge; he himself sat in the carriage of the Snow Queen, who passed here, down just over the wood, as we lay in our nest. She blew upon us young ones; and all died except we two. Coo! Coo!"

"What is that you say up there?" cried little Gerda. "Where did the Snow Queen go to? Do you know anything about it?"

"She is no doubt gone to Lapland; for there is always snow and ice there. Only ask the Reindeer, who is tethered there."

"Ice and snow is there! There it is, glorious and beautiful!" said the Reindeer. "One can spring about in the large shining valleys! The Snow Queen has her summer-tent there; but her fixed abode is high up towards the North Pole, on the Island called Spitzbergen."

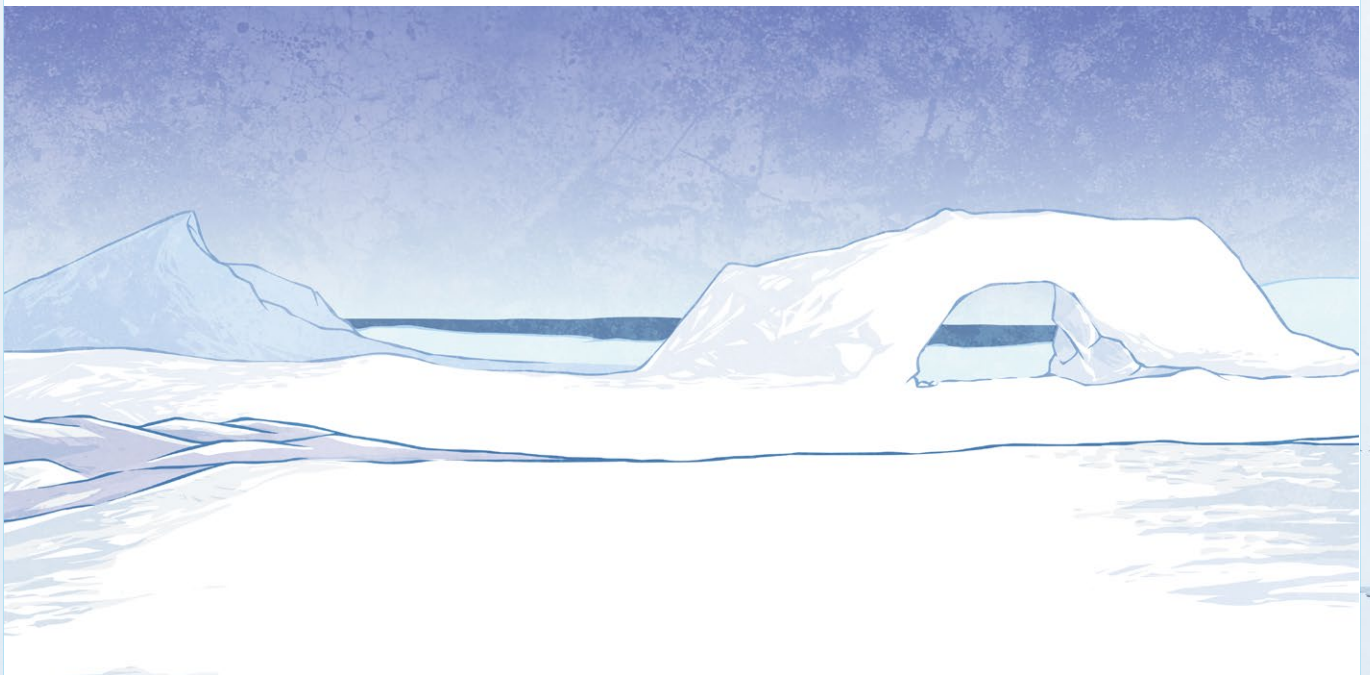
“Oh, Kay! Poor little Kay!” sighed Gerda.

“Do you choose to be quiet?” said the robber maiden. “If you don’t, I shall make you.”

In the morning, Gerda told her all that the Wood-pigeons had said; and the little maiden looked very serious, but she nodded her head, and said, “That’s no matter—that’s no matter. Do you know where Lapland lies!” she asked of the Reindeer.

“Who should know better than I?” said the animal; and his eyes rolled in his head. “I was born and bred there—there I leapt about on the fields of snow by lakes with glass surfaces.”

“Listen,” said the robber maiden to Gerda. “You see that the men are gone; but my mother is still here, and will remain. However, towards morning she takes a draught out of the large flask, and then she sleeps a little: then I will do something for you.” She now jumped out of bed, flew to her mother; with her arms round her neck, and pulling her by the beard, said, “Good morrow, my own sweet nanny-goat of a mother.” And her mother took hold of her nose, and pinched it till it was red and blue; but this was all done out of pure love.



Questions

1. What does the word 'abode' mean in line 23? Tick one.

island ☐

tent ☐

home ☐

mountain ☐

V

2. Name the person that Gerda is searching for.

R

3. Number the following (1-5) to show the order in which they happen in the extract.

S

The reindeer spoke to Gerda. ☐

The woodpigeons spoke to Gerda. ☐

Gerda told the little robber girl about Kay. ☐

Her mother took hold of the robber girls nose. ☐

The robber maiden went to sleep with her arm around Gerda's neck. ☐

4. Why could Gerda not get to sleep?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

I

5. Based on what you have read, what do you predict will happen next?

P

6. ...lakes with glass surfaces.

Write two impressions this gives you of the lake.

C

7. When the reindeer describes Lapland, he says 'I was born and bred there – there I leapt on the fields of snow by lakes with glass surfaces'.
How is this different to his current situation. Explain your answer.

C

8. The author writes that Gerda looked at the knife 'rather fearfully'.
What does this imply? Circle the correct answer.

A

Gerda wishes to
steal the knife.

Gerda is scared of
the robber girl.

Gerda is jealous
of the knife.

9. In the final paragraph, what does the word 'draught' mean?

A

Answers

1. What does the word 'abode' mean in line 23? Tick one.

- island ☐
- tent ☐
- home ☒
- mountain ☐

2. Name the person that Gerda is searching for.

Kay

3. Number the following (1-5) to show the order in which they happen in the extract.

- The reindeer spoke to Gerda.
- The woodpigeons spoke to Gerda.
- Gerda told the little robber girl about Kay.
- Her mother took hold of the robber girls nose.
- The robber maiden went to sleep with her arm around Gerda's neck.

4. Why could Gerda not get to sleep?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept answers that refer to the following:

- **Gerda was fearful for her life; she was with a band of robbers and the robber girl held a knife whilst she slept.**
- **The robber girl said, 'there is no knowing what may happen,' implying that something bad could happen whilst they slept.**
- **The robber girl was snoring loudly.**
- **She was worried about her friend, Kay.**

5. Based on what you have read, what do you predict will happen next?

Accept any plausible answer with reference to the text:

- **The reindeer may guide Gerda to Kay because he told Gerda he knows where the Snow Queen lives.**
- **The little robber girl will help Gerda escape as she says 'I will do something for you, ' when her mother falls asleep.**

6. ...lakes with glass surfaces.

Write two impressions this gives you of the lake.

Children can receive one mark for each of the following:

- **they are reflective/shiny/mirror-like;**
 - **clear/transparent /see-through;**
 - **still /calm/frozen ice;**
 - **flat /smooth.**
7. When the reindeer describes Lapland, he says 'I was born and bred there – there I leapt on the fields of snow by lakes with glass surfaces'.
How is this different to his current situation. Explain your answer.

Accept any answer that refers to the reindeer being trapped or 'tethered', which means he now isn't free to leap through the field of snow.

8. The author writes that Gerda looked at the knife 'rather fearfully'.

What does this imply? Circle the correct answer.

Gerda wishes to
steal the knife.

Gerda is scared of
the robber girl.

Gerda is jealous
of the knife.

9. In the final paragraph, what does the word 'draught' mean?

she takes a drink / has a drink from the flask