Rosa Changed the Rules

Rosa Parks was a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955, Rosa got on the bus after a long day at work. She took a seat in the black section in the back of the bus.

A short time later, the bus picked up another passenger, a white person. There were no more seats at the front of the bus, which were reserved for white people. The driver asked Rosa to get up and give her seat to the white person. But Rosa would not move. As a result, Rosa was arrested and put into jail.

News of Rosa’s refusal to give up her seat spread quickly throughout Montgomery. A few days later, African Americans across the city stopped riding the buses. They walked to work instead, or found car rides with friends. They called it the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and it lasted a whole year.

Finally, the rules were changed. African Americans were allowed to sit on any seat in a bus. Rosa’s courageous act helped to raise awareness about how the civil rights of African Americans were being oppressed, thereby changing America for the better. Thanks, Rosa!

Complete the activity below, color the pictures, then cut on the dotted line, and put in order.

She went to Jail. She did not give up her seat on the bus. The law was changed. People did not use the bus.

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