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Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words

Adrienne Cannon

Andrea Lewis

Valerie Kinloch

Stacie Moats smoats@loc.gov



EXHIBITIONS



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Exhibitions



Current Exhibitions



[Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words](#)

Showcases rarely seen materials that offer an intimate view of Rosa Parks and documents her life and activism—creating a rich opportunity for viewers to discover new dimensions to their understanding of this seminal figure. The materials are drawn extensively from the Rosa Parks Collection, a gift to the Library of Congress from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.



[Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote](#)

Tells the story of the seventy-two-year campaign for women's suffrage. Considered the largest reform movement in American history, its participants believed that securing the vote was essential to achieving women's economic, social, and political equality. For years, determined women organized, lobbied, paraded, petitioned, lectured, picketed, and faced imprisonment. Their collective story is one of courage, perseverance,

Explore Past Exhibitions



[From the Home Front and the Front Lines](#)

Consists of original materials and oral histories drawn from the Veterans History Project collections at the Library of Congress.

[View all exhibitions »](#)

Plan Your Visit

- [Exhibition Hours](#)
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ROSA PARKS

In Her Own Words

Opening December 5, 2019

South Gallery, Second Floor, Thomas Jefferson
Building

[EXPLORE THE EXHIBIT](#)

“Is it worth while to reveal the intimacies of the past life? Would the people be sympathetic or disillusioned when the facts of my life are told?”

Explore the Exhibit



Early Life and Activism



The Bus Boycott



Detroit 1957 and Beyond



A Life of Global Impact



Early Life and Activism



Rosa Parks birthplace in Tuskegee, Alabama, ca. 1916. Postcard. Visual Materials from the Rosa Parks Papers, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (001.00.00)

1
Early Childhood
Incidents and experiences

Deserted by father at 2½ years,
shortly before brother's birth.

Mother was with her semi-invalid parents

Great-grand father's playing with my
brother and me. He was an ex-slave
of Scotch-Irish descent, African
ancestry either remote or non-existent.
He died when I was six years old.

Mother taught school in the rural community

where we lived.

They moved through the country,

burning Churches, schools, flogging

and killing. Grandfather stayed

up to wait for them to come to

our house. He kept his shot

gun within reach at all times.

My Aunt, a widow,

and her five small children came

to our house at night. We could

not undress and go to bed at night.

The doors and windows were

boarded and nailed tight from the

inside. I stayed awake many

(7)

now.

I know when I go back to morrow
I won't have the time to write.
I am going to write to him,
and when I do I will be sure
to let you know.

I just bet anything the boys in
your classes can't get their
lessons for looking at you.
I know the majority of them
like you, they can't help it.
(How bad is it?)

You say you are only in love
with books, but you
can't fool me. You mean
with books & boys too.

I read in the paper where there
had been a flood there.
It isn't so very cold here

(6)

very much to look in your
sweet face. I will send you
one of mine as soon as I
have some made.

What all did you get for
Easter? I know you looked
to get up. I only got a
spring coat. Do you ever see
Sweetheart? I guess you know
who I am speaking of, Mrs.
Harris on Elmwood, It.

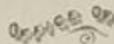
To tell you the truth darling,
I have not wrote to him since
I sent you those letters I received
from him. I haven't had time
on the account of my lessons.
I am not in school to day
that is why I am writing to you



Raymond Parks (1903–1977), Montgomery, Alabama, ca. 1947. Photograph. Visual Materials from the Rosa Parks Papers, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (013.00.00)

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LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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April - 2nd - 1931,
 National Association For The Advancement of Colored
 People;

Mr.

White Secy. New York City.
 my Dear Mr. White:-

I am sure you have noted in the press an account of the nine Negro boys who were arrested at Scottsboro, Ala. A week or two ago charged with Criminal assault upon two white girls aboard a freight train after these boys had repulsed six white boys aboard the same train. Our only information is from the press. However the Interdenominational Minister Alliance has with the assistance of some few Laymen become interested and have raised some little funds and have retained a lawyer for the purpose of seeing that the boys get justice. He has been on the grounds and reports that justice is very tense, and that a number of oaths have been hurled at him. Yet he is going to do his best, and says the real truth is different from the press reports. As Secretary of the Committee I have been asked to confer with your Organization to see if you are taking any steps in this matter or if your Organization will assist us in seeing that these boys get justice. May I hear from you by return mail? Thanking you in advance I beg to remain, your truly
 Dr. P. A. Stephens



The Bus Boycott

“During the Montgomery bus boycott, we came together and remained unified for 381 days. It has never been done again. The Montgomery boycott became the model for human rights throughout the world.”



I had been pushed
around ~~for~~ all my
life ~~been~~ and felt at
this moment that I
couldn't take it anymore.
When I asked the policeman
why we ~~were~~ had to be
pushed around? He said
he didn't know. "The law
is the law. You are under
arrest." ~~I~~ ~~acta~~ ~~I~~ ~~went~~
~~with~~ I didn't resist.

FORM 1040 U.S. INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN For Calendar Year **1955**
 or other taxable year beginning Jan 1, 1955, and ending Jan 1, 1956
 (Please type or print clearly)

NAME OF THIS IS A JOINT RETURN OF HUSBAND AND WIFE, USE FIRST NAMES OF BOTH
Raymond Mitchell & Rosa Louise A. Parks

HOME ADDRESS (NUMBER AND STREET OR POST OFFICE ROUTE) (CITY OR POST OFFICE) (COUNTY) (STATE)
134 Cleveland Court Montgomery 8 Montgomery Alabama
418-17-0244 Barber 418-32-7180 Seamstress

YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NO. AND OCCUPATION (Wife's Social Security No. and Occupation)
418-17-0244 Barber 418-32-7180 Seamstress

If Income Was All From Wages, Use Pages 1 and 2 Only. If Such Income Was Less Than \$5,000, You May Need to Use Page 3 Only. See Page 3 of the Instructions.

Exemptions

- Check blocks which apply. Check for wife if she had no income or her income is included in this return.

Regular \$500 exemption	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	Enter number of enter exempted
65 or over at end of taxable year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	
Blind at end of taxable year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	
- List names of your children who qualify or dependents, give address if different from yours. Enter number of children listed. 2
- Enter number of exemptions claimed for other persons listed at top of page 2. 1
- Enter the total number of exemptions claimed on lines 1, 2, and 3. 3

5. Enter all wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, and other compensation received in 1955, before payroll deductions. Outside salesmen and persons claiming traveling, transportation, or reimbursed expenses, see instructions, page 5.

Employer's Name	Wages, etc.	Income Tax Withheld
<u>Atlix Barber & Family Shop Montgomery, Ala</u>	<u>\$ 1,101.65</u>	<u>\$ 40.70</u>
<u>Harvey's Barber Shop</u>	<u>492.74</u>	<u>24.24</u>
<u>Montgomery Fair Co</u>	<u>1,556.25</u>	<u>24.70</u>
	<u>\$ 3,150.64</u>	<u>\$ 179.64</u>

6. Less: Excludable "Sick Pay" in line 5 (See instructions, page 5) 0

7. Balance (line 5 less line 6) 3,150.64

8. Profit (or loss) from business (from separate Schedule C) 0

9. Profit (or loss) from farming (from separate Schedule F) 0

10. Other income (or loss) from page 3 0

11. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (sum of lines 7, 8, 9, and 10) 3,150.64

Special Deductions

12. Unmarried or legally separated persons qualifying as "Head of Household," see instructions, page 14, and check here Widows and widowers who are entitled to the special tax computation, see instruction, page 14, and check here

IF INCOME ON LINE 11 IS UNDER \$5,000, AND YOU DO NOT ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS, USE TAX TABLE ON PAGE 16 OF INSTRUCTIONS. IF INCOME WAS \$5,000 OR MORE, OR IF YOU ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS, COMPUTE YOUR TAX ON PAGE 2.

13. Enter tax from the Tax Table, or from line 9, page 2. Please check if you use Tax Table \$ 311.00

14. Dividends received credit (line 5 of Schedule J) 0

15. Retirement income credit (line 12 of Schedule K) 0

16. Balance (line 12 less line 13) 311.00

17. Enter your self-employment tax from separate Schedule C or F. 0

18. (a) Tax withheld (line 5 above). Attach Forms W-2 (Copy B) \$ 179.64

(b) Payments and credits on 1955 Declaration of Estimated Tax (see instructions, page 11) \$ 183.01

19. If your tax (line 17) is larger than your tax (line 12 or 16), enter the OVERPAYMENT here. If less than \$1.00, it will be refunded only upon application. See instructions, page 31. \$ 0

Enter amount of line 19 you want: Credited on 1956 estimated tax 0 Refunded 0

20. If your wife (husband) making a separate return for 1955? Yes No. If "Yes," write her (his) name. Federal tax for name and address. Yes No. If "Yes," enter tax. Yes No.

Taxpayer signs here

To avoid split-income benefits, husband and wife must include all their income and, even though only one has income, BOTH MUST SIGN. I declare under the penalties of perjury that I prepared this return for the annual normal basis, and that this return (including any accompanying schedules and statements) is to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true, correct, and complete return based on all the information relating to the matters required to be reported in this return of which I have any knowledge.

PREPARED (OTHER THAN TAXPAYER) (Signature) (Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Raymond and Rosa Parks's 1955 Income Tax Return, 1956. Rosa Parks Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (028.00.00)

FORM 1040 U.S. INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURN—1959
 or Other Taxable Year Beginning Jan 1, 1959, and ending Jan 1, 1960
 (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

Name Raymond A + Rosa L Parks
 (If this is a joint return of husband and wife, use first names and middle initials of both)

Home address 1930 W. Grand Blvd
 (Number and street or rural route) (City or town) (State) Detroit Mich

Your Social Security Number (Print name and post office) 418-17-0244 Barber (Wife's Social Security Number) 418-32-7180 Seamstress (Occupation)

Exemptions

- Check blocks which apply. Check for wife only if all of her income is included in this return, or if she had no income.

(a) Regular \$500 exemption	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	Enter number of enter exempted
(b) Additional \$500 exemption if 65 or over at end of taxable year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	
(c) Additional \$500 exemption if blind at end of taxable year	<input type="checkbox"/> Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/> Wife	
- List first names of your children who qualify or dependents, give address if different from yours. Enter number of children listed. 2
- Enter number of exemptions claimed for other persons listed at top of page 2. 2
- Enter the total number of exemptions claimed on lines 1, 2, and 3. 2

5. Enter all wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions, tips, and other compensation before payroll deductions (including any excess of expense account or similar allowance paid by your employer over your ordinary and necessary business expenses, see instructions, pp. 4-6).

Employer's Name	Wages, etc.	CO Plans, etc.	Income Tax Withheld
<u>Michigan Barber School Inc</u>	<u>\$ 1,911.20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6.160</u>
<u>Harvey's Barber Shop</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6.22</u>
<u>Sewing (W)</u>	<u>661.06</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6.62</u>

6. Less: Excludable "Sick Pay" in line 5 (See instructions, page 5) 0

7. Balance (line 5 less line 6) 2,822.26

8. Profit (or loss) from business from separate Schedule C 0

9. Profit (or loss) from farming from separate Schedule F 0

10. Other income (or loss) from page 3 (Dividends, Interest, Rents, Pensions, etc.) 0

11. Adjusted Gross Income (sum of lines 7, 8, 9, and 10) 2,822.26

Check if unmarried "Head of Household" or "Surviving Widow or Widower" with dependent child (See instructions pp. 7-8)

12. TAX on income on line 11. (If line 11 is under \$5,000, and you do not itemize deductions, use Tax Table on page 16 of instructions to find your tax and check here . If line 11 is \$5,000 or more, or if you itemize deductions, compute your tax on page 2 and enter here the amount from line 9, page 2.) 702.00

13. (a) Dividends received credit from line 5 of Schedule J 0

(b) Retirement income credit from line 12 of Schedule K 0

14. Balance (line 12 less line 13) 702.00

15. Enter your self-employment tax from separate Schedule C or F. 0

16. Sum of lines 14 and 15 702.00

17. (a) Tax withheld (line 5 above). Attach Forms W-2, Copy B. \$ 616.00

(b) Payments and credits on 1959 Declaration of Estimated Tax (see instructions, page 11) \$ 616.00

District Director's office where paid 0

18. If your tax (line 17) is larger than your payments (line 12), enter the BALANCE DUE here. Pay in full with this return to "Internal Revenue Service." If less than \$1.00, file return without payment. 0

19. If your payments (line 17) are larger than your tax (line 12 or 16), enter the OVERPAYMENT here. If less than \$1.00, the overpayment will be refunded only upon application. 6.60

20. Amount of line 19 to be: (a) Credited on 1960 estimated tax 0 (b) Refunded 6.60

Did you receive an expense allowance or reimbursement, or charge expense to your employer? Yes No (See page 4.)
 If "Yes," did you submit no itemized accounts of expenses to your employer? Yes No (See instructions, page 4.)

Grant in your line 19. Is your wife (husband) filing a separate return for 1959? Yes No. If "Yes," enter her (his) name and do not check for exemption on this return. Wayne

I declare under the penalties of perjury that this return (including any accompanying schedules and statements) has been prepared by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true, correct, and complete return. If the return is prepared by a person other than the taxpayer, his declaration is based on all the information relating to the matters required to be reported in the return of which he has any knowledge.

(Taxpayer's signature and date) (If this is a joint return, BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE MUST SIGN) (Wife's signature and date)

Signatures of preparer (other than taxpayer) (Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Raymond and Rosa Parks's 1959 income tax return, 1960. Rosa Parks Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (041.00.00)



Detroit 1957 and Beyond

“Our freedom is threatened every time one of our young people is killed by another child, . . . every time a person gets stopped and beaten by the police because of the color of their skin.”



UPI. Black Activist Kwame Toure (left), formerly known as Stokely Carmichael at the University of Michigan to discuss civil rights at a forum. Another civil rights leader Rosa Parks (right), has a lighter moment with Toure after a panel discussion. Photograph, February 14, 1983. Visual Materials from the Rosa Parks Papers, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (058.00.00)

yesterday, it rained
nearly all day here,
and there was a
very bad storm in
Newport News. Property
damage was considerable
but no injuries or
deaths reported.

It was sad to read
about Jeremiah Reeves
getting the ^{electric} chair. I
suppose you already
know about it.

I still want to get to
Montgomery, but don't
know if I can get
away. I should leave
April 9, be back here
the 15. I will let you
know right away what
I will do.

I hope Parks is keeping
well, also brother and
family. Does he still
have his car? How is
the recession treating
all of you there? Give
my regards to Anne,
Hannie Mae, Thomas and



**ROSA & RAYMOND PARKS
INSTITUTE FOR SELF
DEVELOPMENT**

CORDIALLY INVITES
YOU TO ATTEND THEIR

**AFRICAN FAREWELL FEAST
&
CELEBRITY FASHION SHOW**
(in conjunction with 1992 Reverse Freedom Tour)



**MONDAY
AUGUST 10, 1992
7:00 P.M.**

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MAIN BRANCH**

\$25.00 donation

(Proceeds to Rosa & Raymond Parks Institute)
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(313) 965-0606

If you are unable to attend, would you please sponsor a child,
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Africano Market Place
Restaurant Taste Fest

African Head Wrapping
Face Painting

Afrocentric Dancing and much more

Rosa L. Parks, Chair

*Cong. John Conyers, Jr.,
Honorary Chair*

*Judge Damon Keith
Honorary Chair*



A Life of Global Impact

“We must have courage—determination—to go on with the task of becoming free—not only for ourselves, but for the nation and the world—cooperate with each other. Have faith in God and ourselves.”

Mrs. 瓦尔斯 巴克

روزا پارک

ROSA PARKS
रोसा पारक्स (in hindi - n.india)
ரோசா பாரக்ஸ் (in tamil - s.india)



The President of the United States of America

Awards this

Presidential Medal of Freedom

to
Rosa L. Parks

On December 1, 1955, going home from work, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and with one modest act of defiance, changed the course of history. By refusing to give up her seat, she sparked the Montgomery bus boycott and helped launch the civil rights movement. In the years since, she has remained committed to the cause of freedom, speaking out against injustice here and abroad. Called the "first lady of civil rights," Rosa Parks has demonstrated, in the words of Robert Kennedy, that each time a person strikes out against injustice, she sends forth a tiny ripple of hope which, crossing millions of others, can sweep down the walls of oppression.

*The White House
Washington, D. C.
September 9, 1996*

William S. Clinton

Rosa Parks's certificate for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1996. Document. Rosa Parks Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (070.00.00)



Rosa Parks's Presidential Medal of Freedom, 1996. Medal. Rosa Parks Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (071.00.00)

“We must have courage—determination—to go on with the task of becoming free—not only for ourselves, but for the nation and the world—cooperate with each other. Have faith in God and ourselves.”

~Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks

FREEDOM FIGHTER

**Webinar for students in
Grades 4-8**



We are going to:

-Become Examiners of History



"I would rather be lynched than live to be mistreated and ~~not be allowed to say~~ ^{can't} that 'I don't like it'."

When I was a very little girl, not more than 10 yrs old, I angrily cried these words to my grand mother in answer to a severe scolding.

me. I happened to ~~recall~~ ^{recall} mention that a white boy had ~~met~~ ^{met} some ~~for~~ ^{for} days ~~ago~~ ^{ago} and had ~~said~~ ^{said} he would ~~hit~~ ^{hit} me ~~at the same time~~ ^{at the same time} made a threatening gesture with his fist at the same time he spoke. I picked up a small piece of brick and drew back to strike him if he should hit me. I was angry, though he seemed to be half teasing and half bullying me. He went his way without further comment.

"I would rather be lynched than be mistreated and not be allowed to say I don't like it."

**Mass Meeting for the
Montgomery Bus Boycott**



The Missing Speech

In 6 words or less, finish this phrase:

Jim Crow has blocked our right to

The Missing Speech Ending

Change is in the air. A new day is upon us.

No longer shall we be silent.

No longer shall we endure disgrace.

We shall destroy Jim Crow and shatter the bonds of cruelty.

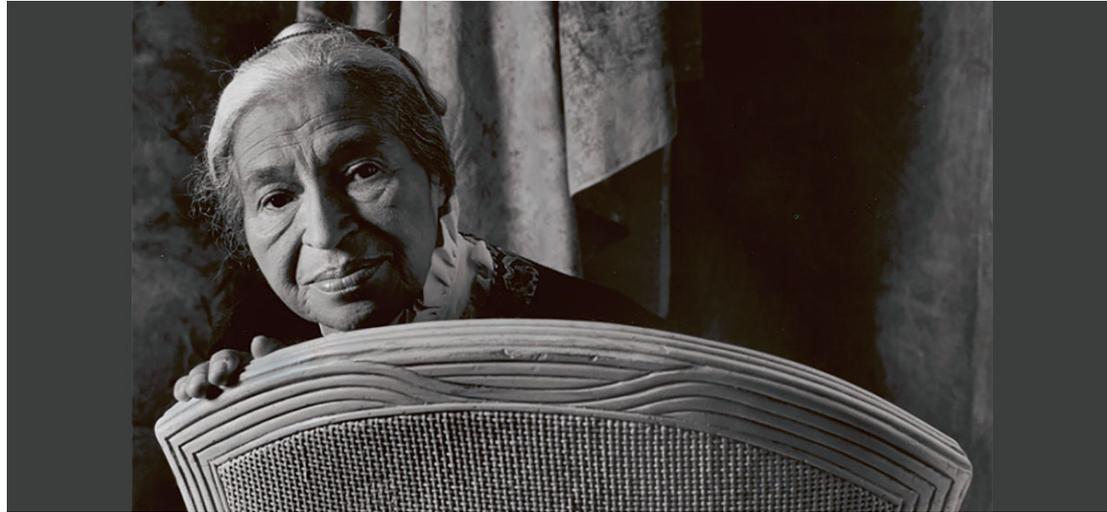
This day we stand up for freedom.

This day we stand up for equality.

This day we stand up for justice.

We stand! We march! We move!





“I would like to be known as a person who is concerned about freedom and equality and justice and prosperity for all people.”

(As an **advocate** for Rosa Parks,
finish the phrase in 6 words or less)

Rosa Parks fought for freedom by



Rosa Parks
FREEDOM FIGHTER

For information about
when the program is
available email:

alewis@loc.gov



**Rosa Parks:
Teaching, Teacher Education &
Black Lives Matter**

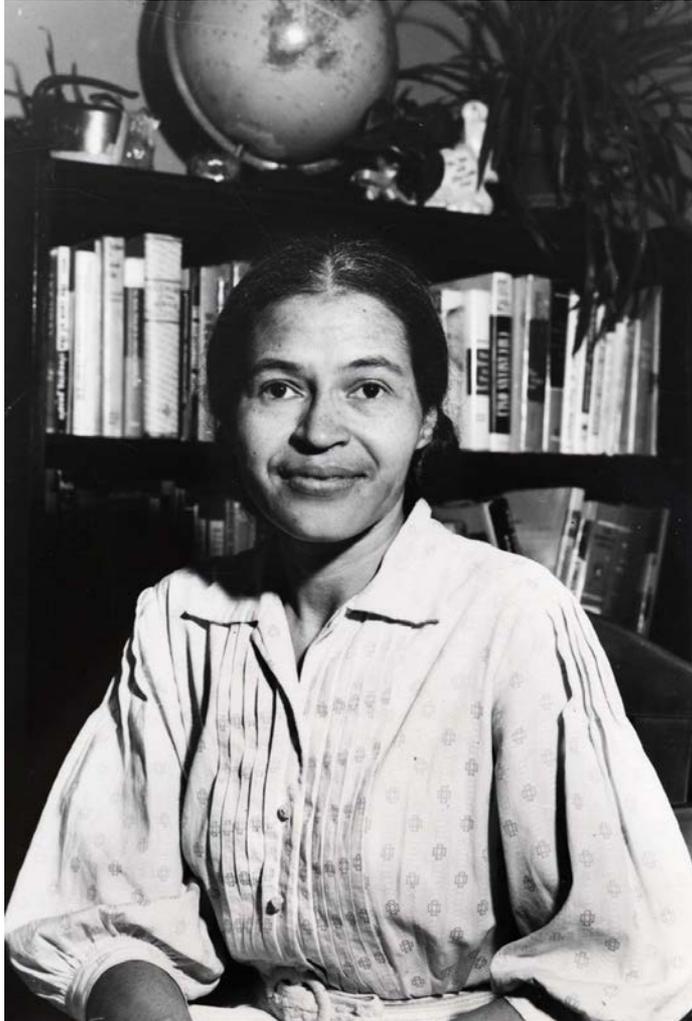
Rosa Parks: Teaching & Teacher Education



“I hope to someday see an end to the conditions in our country that would make people want to hurt others.”

“When students come to class and demand to be educated, education will take place.”

Rosa Parks: Teaching & Teacher Education



“I’d like people to say I’m a person who always wanted to be free and wanted it not only for myself.”

- *Freedom means...*
- *Freedom looks like...*
- *Freedom includes...*
- *Freedom for what...*
- *Freedom for whom...*

Rosa Parks & Black Lives Matter



“How can the life of Rosa Parks help us better understand the BLM movement and protests?”



“Don’t give up and don’t say the movement is dead”
(Rosa Parks).

Before You Go

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Please note: Certificates are not automated. You must make a request.