

Taking a Stand in the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Based on *The Bus Ride* by William Miller

Teacher: Lauren Hendriks

Title of Lesson: Taking a Stand in the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Grade Level(s): 4th Grade

Content Areas: Social Studies

Description/Abstract of Lesson: This is an elementary school lesson about the Civil Rights Movement. The students will learn about important people in history and what the Civil Rights Movement did for people in our state and our country. They will see how Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott helped start a lasting movement to change the rights of African Americans. It would be good to follow this lesson with a lesson on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Time-line: 1950's

Goals/Objectives (Cognitive/Affective) of Lesson Plan:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Describe what began the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama.
2. Explain who Rosa Parks was and what she did that made such a lasting impact on African Americans in Alabama.
3. Describe what the Montgomery Bus Boycott was.

Curriculum Standards:

ALCOS SS 4.14 - Describe the social, political, and economic impact of the modern Civil Rights Movement on Alabama.

ALCOS LA 4.3 - Use a wide range of strategies, including distinguishing fiction from nonfiction and making inferences, to comprehend fourth-grade recreational reading materials in a variety of genres.

Information Literacy Standards:

Standard 3: The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively. (<http://cnets.iste.org/currstands/cstands-il.html>)

Pre-lesson Activities:

Before reading the book, *The Bus Ride* by William Miller, show a picture of a bus and one of Rosa Parks. Ask the students questions about the pictures. Guide them to the

connection between the two and draw out any prior knowledge they may have about the two. List the vocabulary words and definitions for the students to learn. (*Civil Rights, segregation, courage, and boycott*) Talk about each one with them.

Guiding questions – “What would you do if you were asked to give up your seat to someone when you were there first?” “Have African Americans and white people always been treated equally?”

Learning Activities or Tasks:

Read the story *The Bus Ride* to your students. Discuss the book and review the vocabulary words.

Show the video clip “Heroes of Today and Yesterday: Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement” from United Streaming about the start of the Civil Rights Movement, focusing especially on the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Show the scene when Rosa Parks is on the bus and she is then arrested. You can also show a scene when everyone is walking and not taking the buses.

- Discuss feelings and thoughts from the class.
- Review vocabulary words.
- Divide the class into two different groups. Have them role-play the bus scene and the boycott. Have them switch parts and role-play again. This will give each group the chance to experience both sides.
- Have each student draw a picture of one thing that they have learned. On the back side, have them write 3 or 4 sentences explaining what the picture is showing and they should use 2 or 3 of the vocabulary words in their sentences.

Talk with the students about what they know about the Civil Rights Movement and about Rosa Parks.

Materials:

1. Book – Miller, William. *The Bus Ride*. Illus. John Ward. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1997.
2. Video Clip from United Streaming - “Heroes of Today and Yesterday: Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement”
<http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/search/assetDetail.cfm?guidAssetID=5D11FDE5-0C2D-4B19-95F3-7FB52EC286DD>
Show two segments – “Rosa Parks Refuses to go to the Back of the Bus” and “Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.”
3. Sentence strips with the sequence of events written on them.
4. Materials for students to draw pictures (crayons, colored pencils, markers, typing paper)
5. Pictures of a bus and of Rosa Parks.

Resources:

“This Goodly Land; Alabama’s Literary Landscape” <http://www.alabamaliterarymap.org/>
United Streaming - <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com>

Assessment:

Write the following sentences on sentence strips and place them on top of the students’ desks (each group of desks should have their own set of sentence strips):

A white man got on the bus. (3)

Black people started boycotting the buses in Montgomery. (8)

Rosa sat in a section of the bus set aside for African-Americans. (2)

Rosa Parks got on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, on December 1, 1955. (1)

The bus driver called the police. (6)

Rosa refused to give up her seat. (5)

There were no seats left in the white section of the bus, so the bus driver asked Rosa to move. (4)

Rosa was arrested and taken to jail. (7)

Have the students work together in groups to sequence them in the order in which they happened. Go around and check to make sure they are sequenced correctly. Have the students turn in the picture they drew with the sentences that included the vocabulary words.