

## **"A BUS RIDE WITH ROSA PARKS"**

### **STUDY GUIDE**

Written by Joanna Maddox

#### **ARTIST BACKGROUND**

Joanna Maddox a professional actress, singer, storyteller writes and performs dramatic portrayals of historical American women. She received a BFA in Drama from the University of Georgia. She has toured throughout the US and is an approved Touring Artist of the National Women's History Project and Fulton County Arts Council's School Arts Program. She has appeared in numerous national television and radio commercials, corporate videos and is a member of Screen Actor's Guild and AFTRA.

#### **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

This program highlights women's history and social studies. It connects with the study units which cover the Civil Rights Movement.

#### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

1. To gain knowledge about Rosa Parks and the challenges that she faced.
2. To present a "live history lesson."
3. To show the pitfalls of segregation and its effect on black people.
4. To witness how Mrs. Parks' simple act of courage changed American history.
5. To gain better understanding of our society by learning about the lives of exceptional women
6. To present a positive female role model.

#### **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

Rosa Parks, "The Mother of the Civil Rights," is symbol of freedom for the world. She is a woman of quiet courage, dignity and determination. In this one woman show her life is presented from her childhood days as field hand until the present. Rosa Parks' mother and maternal grandparents encouraged her from an early age to stand up for herself and to feel good about herself even though she was mistreated because of the color of her skin. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat to a white male passenger and was arrested by the Montgomery police. Her simple act of courage set in motion a chain of events that forever changed American race relations and redirected the course of history.

Program length is 35 minutes with an optional 10 minute question and answer period following.

#### **VOCABULARY WORDS**

Seamstress – woman whose occupation is sewing

Segregate – to separate (At one time the US had separate schools for blacks and whites. The two races could not work together, or share public facilities, like hotels, restaurants, restrooms, etc.

Boycott – to refuse to use a service as a protest

Civil rights – the rights of a free people, including the right to vote

NAACP- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Harass – to annoy persistently

Manhandle – to handle roughly, to move or manage by human force

Prosecute – to pursue punishment of a crime or for violation of the law

Oppression – the act of treating people in a cruel and unjust way

#### **OVERVIEW OF ART FORM**

The art forms presented in this program are storytelling, dramatic art and music. Information presented

in the narrative form is the information that will be remembered. Before television and radio people told stories and the ancient art of storytelling is making a comeback. Storytelling can be used to entertain, inspire, encourage, heal and to pass down cultural history and information from generation to generation. Through stories people can connect, learn about and appreciate each other.

At the end of the program artist and audience will sing “We shall overcome.”

### **PRE AND POST ACTIVITIES**

- Read books from the resource guide.
  - Imagine what it would be like to be Rosa Parks during the bus boycott?
  - Would you break the law for something you believe? Think about being in a situation where you are fighting to change the way things have always been.
  - Talk about being the first to do something very hard.
  - Write a news story about Rosa Parks and share with the class.
  - Discuss how fear played a role in keeping blacks from speaking out about unfair conditions?
  - Would you have walked instead of riding the bus knowing that you could be harassed, beaten or thrown in jail?
- Considering everything that happened to Rosa Parks, if you were her, would you have refused to give up your seat on the segregated bus? Why or why not?
- How did Mrs. Parks arrest help to unify the Civil Rights Movement?

### **RESOURCES**

#### **BOOKS**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| “Rosa Parks”  | by David Brinkley    |
| “Rosa Parks”  | by David Adler       |
| “Rosa Parks”  | by Eloise Greenfield |
| “Rosa Parks”  | by Teresi Celsi      |
| “Quiet Strength, Rosa Parks”  | by Gregory Reed      |
| “From the back of the Bus to the Front of a Movement”                           | by Cammie Wilson     |
| “Rosa Parks – My Story”   | by Jim Haskin        |
| “African-Americans Who Made a Difference<br>(15 Plays for Classroom) Grades 4-8 |                      |

#### **WEBSITES**

- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/rosa/index/htm>
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory>