

Claudette Colvin



Who Is Claudette Colvin?

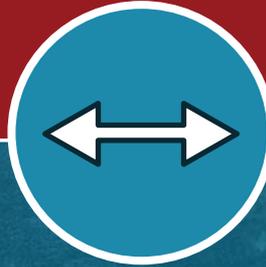
Claudette Colvin is a civil rights activist who stood up for the rights of African Americans. She refused to give up her seat on a bus nine months before Rosa Parks did the same thing.



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What do you wonder about Claudette Colvin?

Why do you think she is less well-known than Rosa Parks?

Childhood

Claudette was born in 1939 in Alabama. She grew up in a poor area. Claudette was very successful in elementary school, earning many “A” grades. She even dreamed of becoming the president of the United States of America!



Think About It!



Why do you think Claudette wanted to become president?

What would you try to do for our country if you became president?

Decision

When Claudette was fifteen, she was riding a bus home from school and was told to give up her seat for a white passenger. Claudette refused to do this as she knew it was wrong. Her decision paved the way for future upheaval against the injustices faced by Blacks.



Go Above and Beyond

Claudette thought of Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth when she made her decision not to give up her bus seat.

Why do you think she thought of these two women? Do some research to help you answer this.



Legacy

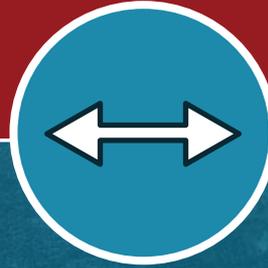
Claudette was arrested for her decision to keep her bus seat. Subsequently, Rosa Parks also made the same decision. Though Rosa Parks gained fame for her decision, Claudette also stood up for the civil rights of African Americans. Claudette paved the way for the publicized Civil Rights Movement in the United States.



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What qualities must Claudette have had to make the decision not to give up her bus seat?

