



## Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation

*Andrea Davis Pinkney , Brian Pinkney (Illustrations)*

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**Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation** Andrea Davis Pinkney , Brian Pinkney (Illustrations)

This story begins with shoes.  
This story is all for true.  
This story walks. And walks. And walks.  
To the blues.

Rosa Parks took a stand by keeping her seat on the bus. When she was arrested for it, her supporters protested by refusing to ride. Soon a community of thousands was coming together to help one another get where they needed to go. Some started taxis, some rode bikes, but they all walked and walked.

With dogged feet. With dog-tired feet. With boycott feet. With boycott blues.

And, after 382 days of walking, they walked Jim Crow right out of town. . . .

Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney present a poignant, blues-infused tribute to the men and women of the Montgomery bus boycott, who refused to give up until they got justice.

## Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation Details

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Author : Andrea Davis Pinkney , Brian Pinkney (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation for online ebook**

### **Mariah Roze says**

This book is written in poetry form and it was really hard for my students to comprehend. There were a lot of metaphors in this book and I had to do a lot of pre-teaching. I would suggest this book to upper elementary/middle school students.

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### **Dawn says**

Striking, dark illustrations. Text that just needs to be read aloud with the same anger and passion shown by Rosa and all of those that protested segregation. I had to read it a second time before I felt comfortable with the bluesy spoken rhythm. This would be amazing I bet as an audio book read by the author. My 6 year old first grader had recently learned about Rosa Parks so I chose this book to continue the dialog and it held his interest well. My 4 year old I'm sure didn't understand much of what was going on but he did enjoy the pictures.

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### **Haley Evans says**

Boycott Blues is an informational text about the Jim Crow laws and the Montgomery bus boycotts, lead by Rosa Parks. This book is a phenomenal informational text on what happened when the Jim Crow laws came into play in 1955. It shows the powerful, persistent, and peaceful fight the blacks fought against segregation and their victory 382 days later. I would use this book in a 5th grade class to talk about segregation and influential people who helped put an end to it. You can also talk about symbolism with your students when reading this book. Jim Crow is depicted as a bird in this story and paints a picture of how powerful and dehumanizing these laws really were. This book is a WOW book for me because of it's powerful verse and rich illustrations. The pictures in this book are absolutely amazing. They perfectly portray the emotion that you are feeling when reading the words on the page.

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### **Anne says**

After listening to Oprah Winfrey's speech last night on the Golden Globes, I'm reminded again of why we can't stop teaching the story of Rosa Parks in schools. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus boycott may be history, but it's surprisingly recent and feels incredibly relevant in our current political climate.

This bluesy rendition of the story is for older audiences, and in fact, might be most appreciated by adults. Pinkney sets a rhythmic tone for this book that makes it one that must be read out loud. The illustrations accompanying the text blend together beautifully - they almost seem like they're swirling and moving along to the music.

One thing in the story that really stood out to me was how long the bus boycott lasted. For over a year, black people and their supporters refused to ride public transport. It wasn't just a moment where people were upset and then all was forgotten. There was real power and commitment. The boycott only ended once the U.S.

Supreme Court declared racial segregation on buses was illegal. Currently, there's a lot of outrage over different issues, but there isn't always a clear action with a specific end goal. I think this book would be a great discussion starter for Civil Rights history as well as current social justice issues.

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### **Belen says**

This book was very appealing to me. This book is about Rosa Parks and her not giving up her seat. The story is told by a dog with a guitar which I believe it engages/connects with the children. The fact that this is an important historical event and is told in a way that is suitable for children to comprehend is very beneficial for teachers with it comes to teaching about historic events. I would definitely use this book in order to inform my students African American History. (1st grade up to 4th)

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### **Shannon says**

Boycott Blues is a historical fiction picture book about the story of Rosa Parks. This would make an excellent book for kindergarten and first graders to use while discussing civil rights movement. This book can be read great with a lot of passion and "bluesy" tone of voice to really get into the story. I would definitely recommend this book to young children around the age of six. I think the children will also enjoy the very dark themed sketch illustrations. Beside the importance of the story, I like how it can teach children to stand up and fight for what you believe in no matter how long it takes.

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### **Danielle Binderman says**

"Boycott Blues" is a great info-text to read in any classroom fourth grade and above! This book tells the story of the impacts that Rosa Parks had on the African American community in efforts to abolish Jim Crow Laws. The book uses a metaphor of a crow to demonstrate how the Jim Crow laws affected individuals during the Civil Rights movement. Rosa Parks started a movement, and with the support of her community, it helped end racial segregation.

I would use this book in my classroom to talk about racial segregation and the key individuals who sparked the Civil Rights movement. Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. were very famous activists during this time, and "Boycott Blues" does an excellent job emphasizing their impacts! Segregation can be a difficult topic to discuss with our students, so reading this book can be a great way to spark these deep conversations.

"Boycott Blues" is also a great leeway into discussing how our students can take informed action in their own communities. While what Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks did sparked a nation wide movement, we should still be encouraging our students to be courageous and take action in their communities! This book could help them think about the issues that are in our city and in our country, and they can brainstorm ways that they can help, and possibly begin to take action!

Overall, "Boycott Blues" was an awesome book to read about a social issue that is a key part of our country's history! I think that students will enjoy the beautiful illustrations and be inspired by leaders of this movement to stand up for what they believe in!

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### **N\_hannahkang says**

Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney retell the well-known story of Rosa Parks in a refreshing way. Pinkney's story reads like a poem or even a blues-inspired song as her word choice include "duet," "crooned," and "strummed." She portrays Jim Crow as a bird "waving his bony wings" and who "pecks, pecks, pecks" at people like Rosa Parks who refuses to abide by the Jim Crow laws. She continues this metaphor throughout until "The Supreme Court invited Jim Crow in for a visit, and waved a gavel on his bony wings...Right then, Jim Crow grew tired. His bony wings started to ache. His peck, peck, peck began to lose its point." Pinkney recounts the peaceful, non-violent, but effective methods of the men and women who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott. Readers of all ages will appreciate Pinkney's brightly colored illustrations of blue, yellow, and green that allow them to make the connection to the boycott blues in which many

Americans - black and white - endured.

I am currently having my freshman research life before the Civil Rights movement - before Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X. I read them the book *White Socks Only* to introduce some of the themes they will encounter during our study of *Black Boy* by Richard Wright. One of the research topics is Jim Crow. Many students know that about segregation but they didn't know as much about Jim Crow. It would be nice for them to read this book to see the direct connection between the two and its effect with Rosa Parks.

On another note - I went to a Newberry Conference today. The topic was about human rights. When many teachers expressed how their students were concerned and appalled when looking at the human rights of citizens in other countries but were unwilling or unable to really examine our own country's history of human rights because they didn't feel the US was as bad as other countries - the professor suggested making the connection to the "genocide" of African Americans. I had never really heard the Jim Crow south as a time of genocide but it does seem to connect...thoughts?

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### **Christine says**

I don't love the style, and a dog as the narrator is kind of weird (not in a good way), BUT the illustrations are amazing, and I love that this book emphasizes the role of the community in the Montgomery bus boycott as opposed to the typical Rosa Parks hero worship.

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### **Whitney Stohr says**

Wonderful book. It tells the story of the bus boycott of the Civil Rights Movement in a way that is catchy and interesting for kids. The tie-in with the Blues was surprising and creative, and the illustrations were beautiful.

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### **Liliya Rubanenko says**

This book told the story of Rosa Parks through the voice of a dog singing blues. It shows how tired and sad the african americans were during this difficult period of segregation, but how they earned rights because they didn't give up. I would use this in the classroom to teach about Rosa Parks and to talk about not giving up but standing firmly in your beliefs.

Genre: Biography

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### **Deena Alzaben says**

Boycott blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation. is a historical fiction that tells the battle of Rosa Parks and other African Americans against the Jim Crow laws. I would use this book as a read aloud in 3rd grade to integrate social studies and literature. This book not only tell about a significant piece of history, but also can be used to teach figurative. Boycott blues is full of personification and complex metaphors. I especially like how the author personified Jim Crow laws to emphasize the battle. This book could also be used teach about social activities. It shows how you can make a difference in the world. This is a WOW book for me because it does a great job of telling Rosa Parks story in a beautiful and poetic way and teaches the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

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### **Paul says**

The Pinkneys have found a compelling way to retell the story of Rosa Parks and the dismantling of Jim Crow laws that draws the reader into her experience while also illuminating the consequence our country now enjoys. Andrea's narrative is told through verse, while Brian's illustrations burst with energy and pathos. The raw text and illustrations underscore the commitment and cost that it took to put right the wrongs of that era. The book can give hope that establishing justice is an ongoing venture.

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### **Christine Albert says**

Another great non-fiction picture book by Andrea Pinkney. The focus is on the Montgomery bus boycott and the SCOTUS verdict against Jim Crow laws. I did not realize these events, the passage and subsequent decision against Jim Crow laws took place over the course of a little more than a year.

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### **Nancy Kotkin says**

Text: 2 stars

Illustrations: 3 stars

Nonfiction picture book about the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955-1956. Narrated by a dog singing the

blues, some of the text is prose and some is poetry. I usually love artistic picture books, but this one misses its mark in my opinion. The visual and literary metaphors are too complex for the targeted age group. The large black splotches on most of the pages detract from the illustrations and make the pages dark; children will not understand their significance or accurately decode those swirls as crows. This is supposed to be nonfiction, but there are very few facts included in the text. There's a lot of "peck, peck, peck" but very little information. After reading this book, a child will not be able to correctly explain what Jim Crow was. So I'm not sure who the audience is for this picture book.

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