

APPENDIX 2.13 Sample Letter to Rosa Parks

Dear Ms. Parks,

I just finished reading and writing about your life. I wanted to write to you to tell you how amazed I am by everything you have accomplished and to say thank you for teaching me some important lessons.

I learned that you did not have an easy life. You lived during Jim Crow Laws in which African Americans had to live by unfair laws. For example, you had to walk to school while white children were able to take the bus. Also, you were not able to go to schools that were as nice as the schools white children went to. I also learned that you didn't get to finish high school because you had to leave and take care of your sick grandmother. That must have been hard!

Later, you inspired the Montgomery Bus Boycott when you refused to give up your seat on the bus to a white person. The bus boycott went on for over a year. After the bus boycott, you worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., giving speeches and working for the Civil Rights Movement. I think it is really amazing that you got to meet and work with Dr. King.

Reading about your life has taught me that one person can actually make a difference. You lived during very unfair times, but your decision to not give up your seat on the bus helped to change the unfair laws African Americans had to live by. I want to try to make a difference in my community someday, too, and hope I am brave enough to stand up for what I believe in just like you.

Thank you for everything you did.

Sincerely,