Entry Number: 6

Division: Junior

Essay Title: The bright star in the Alabama Sky-Rosa Parks

 The Bright Star in the Alabama Sky-Rosa Parks

 “It was December 1, 1995. I was boarding a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. As soon as I stepped into the bus I saw that all the seats in the colored row were full. The colored row was designated to people like me. People of color, people who were sold and used as servants, drink from different water fountains, people who had different schools just because of their skin color. People like me. I slowly walked down the aisle looking for a seat in the colored section. Finally, I plopped down in a seat. The bus started to move again. When the next stop came, a white man stepped into the bus but he wouldn’t sit down.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks#cite_note-2) Finally the bus driver, James F. Blake got out of his seat and came to ask the white man what was wrong. Everything was calm. That is, until they both walked into the colored section. “ *Four of ya’ll need to stand up and get out of your seat.*” The bus driver said. It was only after a few seconds that I realized he was looking at me. The rule was four seats in the colored section would need to be emptied in favor of a white person. I stayed rooted to my seat. I knew this wasn't the right thing to do in the white man’s view, but neither was the fact that people of color had the downside to everything. I wasn't the first one to resist giving up my seat, but I was still seen in court. I was put under civil arrest for this. It seemed unfair that I had to spend hours in jail just because I wanted to stay in my seat.”

 This is the story of Rosa Parks and how she stood up against discrimination.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks#cite_note-1) Her act led to the Montgomery bus boycott.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks#cite_note-39) People stopped using the buses and started to carpool or take cabs. Many people would bike or walk to work as much as 20 miles. Rosa Parks became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation. She started collaborating with other civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Edgar Nixon. She was a Secretary of the Montgomery chapter for NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).[[4]](https://naacp.org/)[[5]](https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/rosa-parks) What caused Rosa Parks to stand up was the story of Emmet Till.

"I thought of [Emmett Till](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett_Till) – a 14-year-old African American who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955, after being accused of offending a white woman in her family's grocery store, whose killers were tried and acquitted – and I just couldn't go back."Rosa Parks said in an interview. The bus driver had asked, “Why don't you get up?”

“ I don’t feel the need to.” She replied. She had stood up against racism by sitting down. She had recalled this incident on a show that focused on the civil rights movement.

 She continued standing up for civil rights and was widely honored for her stance but because of the same, she lost her job and when she walked around on the street she received multiple death threats and she was told by multiple people every day that she was making the wrong choices. Even though some people were against her actions, many people supported her.

Today people still face discrimination. I myself have faced discrimintation starting at a young age. While in kindergarten, when I had packed my favorite lunch, *paneer curry*, I was mocked by some kids who were not used to Indian food. I was too little at that time to understand anything about it but this continued through second grade. I was old enough then to understand that though not too serious, this was still discrimination. I was being made fun of because of my culture and my food.

Many people never stand up for themselves or others who are facing racism or other types of discrimination and this allows the discriminators to continue their heinous acts because there is no retaliation. People who stand up against racism make a statement that shows what is incorrect. If people were to not stand up against wrongdoing, many people would still face what Rosa Parks had to face.

 Both Minoru Yasui and Rosa Parks stood up for civil rights so that the future generations would have a better world. Both of them stood up against discrimination. Minoru Yasui stood up for Japanese-Americans during World War ll. After the bombing at Pearl Harbor,[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoru_Yasui) He was ordered to take part in the war but he was turned away given the fact he was Japanese. He was one of the four Japanese-Americans that fought for the rightness of exclusion and detention during the world war ll. Japanese people had a curfew and he had been walking downtown past the curfew time. He walked up to a police officer who was patrolling the area and told the officer to arrest him. The police simply did nothing and told him to leave. Minoru Yasui became a lawyer soon after and argued on the case of curfew. He argued in many court cases and eventually his request of breaking the curfew was affirmed. He also avoided racial riots because he had close relationships with African-American communities.[[7]](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Minoru_Yasui/)

If I were to create greater equity, I would speak to nearby communities and build closer relationships with many people like Minoru Yasui did and then explain to them some of the problems happening in our area and figure out how to fix them. Having closer relationships with nearby communities will reduce the amount of arguments and violence and bring more equity into our world. I am working on being part of the community by taking part in event planning and volunteering for tree planting events. Minoru Yasui and Rosa Parks had stood up for civil rights by taking risks, knowing that they could be arrested, knowing that they would be changing the way people thought, by standing up.

Bibliography

1.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks>

2.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks#Parks_arrest_and_bus_boycott>

3.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosa_Parks#Montgomery_bus_boycott>

4.<https://naacp.org/>

5.<https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/rosa-parks>

6.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minoru_Yasui>

7.<https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Minoru_Yasui/>