



PIES FROM NOWHERE: ***How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the*** ***Montgomery Bus Boycott***

By Dee Romito, Illustrated by Laura Freeman

Sparked by the arrest of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955, the **Montgomery Bus Boycott** was a 13-month **mass protest** that ended with the United States Supreme Court ruling that **segregation** on public buses is **unconstitutional**. The bus boycott demonstrated that **nonviolent protests** can successfully challenge **racial segregation** and served as an example for others trying to create change.

Before Reading:

- What is segregation?
- How did segregation affect American lives?
- Why is it important to learn about other cultures?
- How do we overcome prejudice and get rid of stereotypes?
- Why do we study our past, present, and future?
- Who are Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks?
- What is the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
- What started the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
- What are the benefits and consequences of questioning authority?
- How does conflict create change?

There are many famous African Americans widely known for their participation in the Civil Rights Movement. Here is the story of a “hidden figure,” Georgia Gilmore, who played a critical role behind the scenes in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Read to find out how Georgia Gilmore’s passion and perseverance helped The Montgomery Bus Boycott achieve its goal.

During Reading:

- Ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why,* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details.
- Determine the central message, and explain how it is conveyed through key details.
- Describe the characters in the story including their traits, motivations, and feelings. Explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events. How do the characters in ***Pies From Nowhere*** respond to major events and challenges?
- Describe the overall structure of the story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
- Acknowledge the points of view of characters. What is your point of view?

- Use information gained from the illustrations and words to demonstrate understanding of the characters, setting, plot, and mood of the story.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the story, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events including the sequence of events, and cause/effect relationships.

After Reading:

- Who is the main character?
- Where and when does the story take place (setting)?
- How does the setting impact the story?
- What did Georgia learn from her upbringing? How did this influence her as an adult? Describe her feelings, traits, and motivations.
- What did Georgia like and dislike?
- How does Georgia respond to segregation in the beginning of the story?
- What changes as the plot develops?
- Why did the people of Montgomery, Alabama decide on a boycott?
- What is Georgia’s point of view about the Montgomery Bus Boycott? What does she believe in?
- What do you believe should have been done?
- What does the author mean by “She wanted to be part of the movement she saw growing”?
- What experiences do you think made Georgia passionate about this cause?
- How do the characters in the story “fight”?
- Why did Georgia cook and serve in secret? How did these actions aid in the boycott?
- Why did author Dee Romito use *Pies From Nowhere* as the title of the book?
- Why is a boycott bad for a city?
- How did Georgia’s actions contribute to the positive and negative outcomes in her life?
- Why did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. call her “Tiny”?
- Why do you think Georgia Gilmore continued to cook, even after the boycott was officially over?

Write About It!

The Montgomery Bus Boycott serves as an ideal historical model for teaching social movements, not only because the boycott achieved an end to segregated seating on city bus lines; but it also illustrates some of the key elements of achieving social transformation: commitment, strategizing, and cooperation.

Write about how the story of Georgia Gilmore is a great illustration of people creating social transformation in a community.

Georgia Gilmore:

- What is Georgia Gilmore known for?
- Why is Georgia Gilmore an inspiration?
- What are some of the obstacles she endured?
- Describe her role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- 5 words that describe Georgia...
- Something she did that made me think...
- What I would say to her if we were able to meet...

What do you think?

- How can individuals and groups bring about change in society?
- What goals did the Civil Rights Movement strive for?
- How did court cases affect the Civil Rights Movement?
- What is the responsibility of those with rights towards those deprived of rights?
- What was Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on the Civil Rights Movement?

Use the book and other sources for research:

- Discuss why Georgia Gilmore is considered a “hidden figure” of the Civil Rights Movement.
- How did everyday people organize to transform a community?
- Why was the Montgomery Bus Boycott important?
- What were the immediate and long-term results of the boycott?
- Why was the Montgomery Bus Boycott an important event in history?
- What are the themes of the story? How does author Dee Romito develop the themes?
- Research other lesser known heroes and heroines of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Create a timeline of major events during the Civil Rights Movement.

Vocabulary:

Write new vocabulary words on a chart. Discuss the meanings in and out of context.

- **boycott**
- **public transportation**
- **movement**
- **segregation**
- **justice**
- **equality**
- **unity**
- **donated**
- **penalizing**
- **persisted**
- **unconstitutional**
- **confidante**