

4 The Montgomery Bus Boycott

18 On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and an officer in the local
29 chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
43 (NAACP), took a seat in the front row of the colored section of a city of
54 Montgomery bus. Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, had be learning
68 about ways to protest segregation in her community. She came to the forefront of
84 the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's by refusing to give up her seat in a
98 Montgomery, Alabama public bus to a white man. The bus driver called for the
111 police to enforce the bus company's segregation law which kept white and black
123 passengers separated. Rosa Parks' arrest became the starting point of a citywide
134 bus boycott by African-Americans (*boycott* means *refusing to participate or*
139 *purchase for a specific reason*).

155 It took one full year for the boycott to force the bus company to change its
167 rules. When the boycott finally ended, African-Americans could sit anywhere on
183 a bus they had paid to ride. This boycott really started the effort to use peaceful
195 nonviolence in protests to force change in segregation laws, especially in the
210 southern United States. This event was led by the then, very young, Dr. Martin
221 Luther King, Jr, who soon became a nationally recognized civil rights leader.