



Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation

By *Andrea Davis Pinkney*

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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.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 3–6—Color and movement are vibrant components in this extraordinary book about Rosa Parks's efforts to take down Jim Crow. Text and illustration work in perfect sync. Andrea Pinkney chose the rhythm of the blues as cadence for the guitar-strumming hound-dog narrator: "This story begins with shoes./This story is all for true./This story walks. And walks. And walks./To the blues." In riveting poetic style, the author relates how Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, AL, on December 1, 1955; her defiance brought about the boycott that changed this nation. The evocative text is bolstered by Brian Pinkney's perceptive vision: he portrays a swirling black mass, colored ink on clay board, to simulate a menacing bird—Jim Crow—that "pecks, pecks, pecks" its determination to undermine the movement. Jim Crow hovers menacingly over the bus and whirls above the beleaguered walkers, but the ever-present dog keeps belting out inspiring words, swinging his tune out over the people. Against electric blues and greens diffused with streaks of black line, Pinkney's artwork rivets the eye with the red of Parks's coat, the yellow of the city bus, and the sunrise red that signals the Supreme Court ruling to end segregation. Children unfamiliar with the historic events of the period will find the tale uplifting and memorable, and for librarians, teachers, and parents, this story will read aloud well, mesmerizing listeners.—*Barbara Elleman, Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review With glowing, dramatic double-page spreads and a clear rhythmic text, this large picture book tells the inspiring story of the Montgomery bus boycott. An adult who was there tells a child today how it was in language that has the beat of the blues—weary, sharp, and sweet. Dog tired, that's me, says the narrator, who appears in most of the pictures as a dog strumming a guitar. Beginning with Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on the bus to a white man, the story moves on through history to Martin Luther King Jr.'s inspiring speech calling for a boycott and the many people who join the movement and refuse to ride the buses. This is one of the few Rosa Parks stories to show how long it took to defeat Jim Crow, how exhausting it was for the nonviolent protestors to walk through rain and steaming heat for more than a year, and how determined they were. Jim Crow becomes a metaphorical bird that struts and pecks, though the statement that Jim Crow flew in in 1955 may confuse readers: as the final note shows, segregation was established long before that date. The moving poetry and the art, with thick, swirling ink lines on bright washes in red, blue, purple, and green, express the dramatic confrontations and the inspiring history. Great for reading aloud, especially to the strumming of a guitar. Preschool-Grade 3. --Hazel Rochman

About the Author

Andrea Davis Pinkney is the author of many acclaimed picture books and young adult novels. She received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award for *Let It Shine*. Her collaborations with her husband, Brian Pinkney, include *Peggy-Po*; *Sleeping Cutie*; *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa*; *Dear Benjamin Banneker*; and the Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor book *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*. She is a children's book editor at a major publishing company. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.

Brian Pinkney has illustrated numerous books for children, including two Caldecott Honor books, *The Faithful Friend*, by Robert D. San Souci, and *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Mr. Pinkney's own books include *Hush, Little Baby*; *Cosmo and the Robot*; *Max Found Two Sticks*; *JoJo's Flying Side Kick*; and *The Adventures of Sparrowboy*, winner of the 1997 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. Brian Pinkney has received the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration and three Coretta Scott King Honor Awards. He lives with his wife, Andrea, and their children in Brooklyn, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Thompson:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation*, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its named reading friends.

James Hibner:

Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation* although doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Rachel Daniels:

As a college student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's soul or real their pastime. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring in addition to can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation* can make you really feel more interested to read.

Daryl Radford:

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