



inFact



REAL HEROES

Ciaran Murtagh



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Contents

Superheroes	4
Real Heroes	5
Emily Davison	6
Rosa Parks	12
Nelson Mandela	18
Glossary and Index	24



Emily Davison



Rosa Parks



Nelson Mandela

Superheroes

We all know what superheroes look like, don't we?

They're strong.

Ta-dah!

They run faster than a cheetah.



Call that fast?

Looking good!



And they like wearing pants over their trousers.

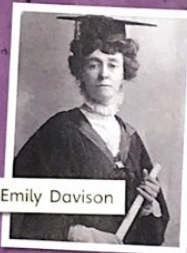
But did you know that real heroes aren't like that at all? Real heroes look like you and me.

Real Heroes

Real heroes don't have X-ray eyes or wear pants over their trousers!

Real heroes become heroes by doing a difficult thing – they stand up for what they believe is right.

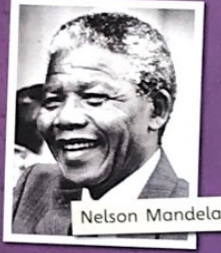
Emily Davison, Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandela all became heroes by standing up for their beliefs, at a time when their beliefs were considered wrong.



Emily Davison



Rosa Parks



Nelson Mandela

Sometimes standing up for what you believe in can get you into trouble. Sometimes it can make you a hero. Sometimes it can do both things at the same time! Turn the page to find out how.



Ooh, it's heavy!

Emily Davison

Emily Davison was born in London, England. When she left school she worked as a governess and teacher. After that, she studied for degrees in London and Oxford. At that time, women were allowed to study, but not all universities would give them a degree, even if they passed all the exams. Oxford degrees, for example, were for men only.

Superhero Degree Exams



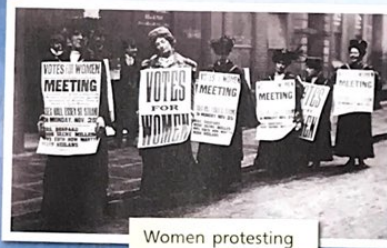
Exam 1: X-ray eyes

Exam 2: Flying



Exam 3: Super-strength

In England at that time, women weren't seen as equal to men. They weren't allowed to do a lot of things that men could do. This included **voting in elections**. Emily Davison, and others like her, thought this was unfair. As they couldn't vote to change this, they decided to **protest**.



Women protesting



Name: Emily Davison

Lived: 1872–1913

Became a hero for: Helping to get women the right to vote in England

Time spent in prison: Unknown – but she went to prison eight times

Fact file

In 1906, Emily joined a group which **campaign**ed for women to be able to vote in elections. They became known as 'suffragettes' (*say* suf-ra-jets). The suffragettes were ready to do almost anything to get women the right to vote. They interrupted meetings and even set fire to postboxes and smashed shop windows.



Suffragettes chained themselves to railings.

Suffragettes threw stones at shop windows.



Some people felt the suffragettes were wrong. Others thought they went too far. However, the suffragettes kept on breaking the law so that people would take notice of them.

Emily Davison was arrested nine times. From her second time in jail, she continued her protest by refusing to eat.



They made the headlines.

On 4th June 1913, Emily Davison stood up for her beliefs in the most dramatic way. At an important horse race, she ran in front of a horse owned by the king. She was willing to risk her life to draw attention to what she believed. The horse knocked her down and trampled her. She was badly injured and died four days later.

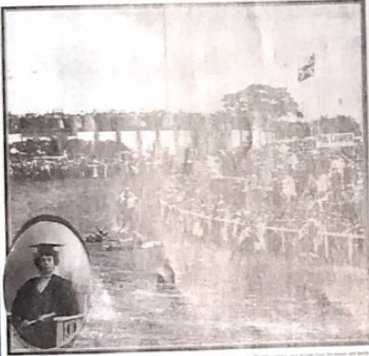
OUR 3,000th NUMBER - MANY SPECIAL FEATURES.

The Daily Mirror

THE MORNING JOURNAL WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE WORLD.

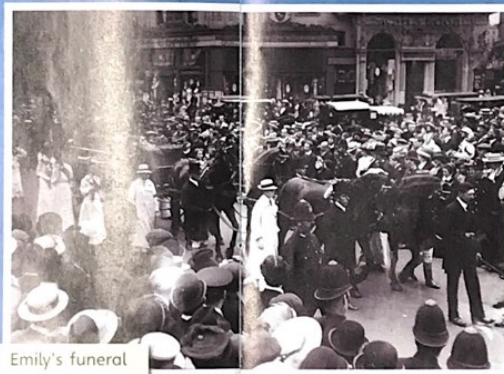
Emily's actions were front-page news.

WOMAN BUSHES ON THE HERRY COURSE AND SNATCHES AT THE BRIDLE OF THE KING'S ROYAL, INJURING HERSELF AND THE JOCKEY.



Emily's death drew a lot of attention. People talked about what she had done and why. In the end, it was agreed that the suffragettes were right – women in England should be able to vote in elections. Women over 30 years old were allowed to vote for the first time in 1918. By 1928, women could vote at age 21, like men.

Emily is remembered for the dramatic part she played in fighting for women's rights.



Emily's funeral procession



Women voting for the first time in England, 1918

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks made a big stand just by sitting down! She was born in Alabama in the United States of America (USA). In some parts of the USA at that time, white and black people weren't allowed to mix. There were also strict rules about what black people could and couldn't do.



Name: Rosa Parks

Lived: 1913–2005

Became a hero for: Taking a stand against racial segregation in the USA

Time spent in prison: One night

Fact file

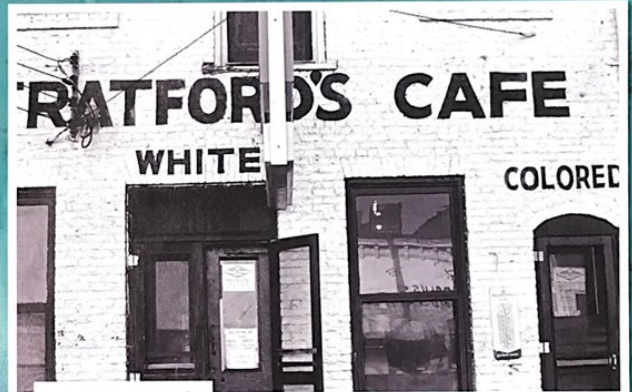


The states in orange had separate schools for black and white children until 1954.

Alabama

12

Black people weren't allowed to go to the same schools as white people. Black people weren't allowed to sit with white people in cafes. Black people weren't even allowed to sit next to white people on the bus. There were white sections and black sections. Imagine if every time you got on the bus, someone told you to sit somewhere else!



A segregated cafe

13

By 1st December 1955, Rosa Parks had had enough of being told where to sit on buses just because of her skin colour. She did the one thing that all heroes do. She stood up for what she believed was right.



On 1st December 1955, Rosa Parks was on this bus.



Where Rosa lived, black bus passengers were expected to stand if there were no seats for white passengers in the white section of the bus. Rosa was asked to stand up so that a white passenger could sit down. She said no. Because she wouldn't give up her seat, the police were called and she was arrested.

Rosa Parks's fingerprints were taken at the police station.



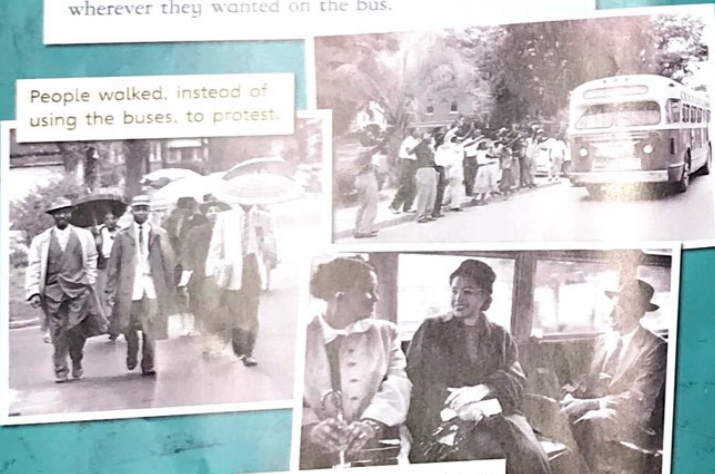
Rosa's arrest photograph



Rosa Parks was taken to jail and had to pay a fine. She even lost her job. However, many people thought that what Rosa had done was right. They decided not to use the buses until white people and black people could sit together.

In 1956, the law was changed so everyone could sit wherever they wanted on the bus.

People walked, instead of using the buses, to protest.



Even though Rosa Parks was treated like a criminal at first, she was standing up for something a lot of people believed. In the end, she was treated like a hero and given medals. Her actions are remembered on 'Rosa Parks Day'. She died in 2005.

Rosa Parks receiving a medal of freedom in 1996



Days named after heroes

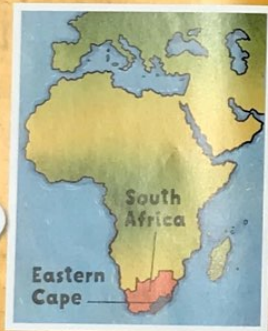
World Braille Day – 4th January, worldwide
Louis Braille created a printed language for blind people to read by touch.

Mabo Day – 3rd June, Australia
Eddie Mabo fought for equality for Australia's Aboriginal people.



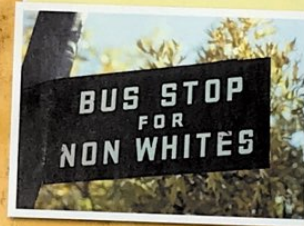
Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was born in Eastern Cape, South Africa. At that time, South Africa was ruled by white people and black people had few rights. Nelson's tribal name was Rolihlahla (*say* roa-li-la-la) which means 'troublemaker'. When he went to school, he was given the name Nelson.



18

Nelson studied hard and became a lawyer when he grew up. In 1950, the government created a set of laws, known as apartheid (*say* uh-part-ite). The laws separated black and white people. They had to live in different areas of towns. Black people were given separate schools and hospitals but they were not as good as those for white people. Most South Africans were black but they were not even allowed to vote in elections. Nelson encouraged people to protest against these unfair laws.



Name: Nelson Mandela
Lived: 1918–2013
Became a hero for: Helping to end apartheid in South Africa
Time spent in prison: Over 27 years

Fact file

19

In 1944, Nelson Mandela joined a political party, the African National Congress (ANC). The ANC wanted black South Africans to have the same rights as white South Africans. Its members believed that everyone should fight the unfair apartheid laws.

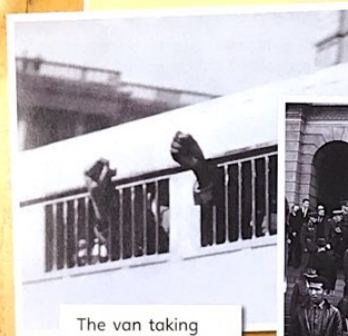
Then in 1960, the South African government banned the ANC. So, in order to continue his work, Nelson had to break the law. He travelled around Africa in disguise, encouraging people to fight apartheid.



An ANC protest

At first, the ANC had been peaceful. But over time, its members took more drastic action to disrupt government and draw attention to their demands. They blew up power plants, telephone lines and railway tracks. The ANC felt that these dangerous attacks were the only way to fight such unfair laws.

In 1962, Nelson was arrested and in 1964, he was sentenced to life in prison.



The van taking Nelson and other prisoners to jail



Outside the court in 1964

At first, some people thought it was right that Nelson Mandela was jailed for his violent actions. But they started to question why he was kept in prison for so long. Lots of people agreed with his views on apartheid.

By the 1980s, people around the world were campaigning for Nelson's release and the end of the apartheid laws. In 1988, a big pop concert was held in London to celebrate his 70th birthday, and it was shown around the world.



Anti-apartheid protest in 1986



Nelson Mandela was released in 1990, after 27 years in prison. In 1994, South Africa held its first elections in which everyone could vote. Nelson was elected president. He was only president for five years, but he was a very important person because he was the first black president of South Africa.



Nelson Mandela after his release

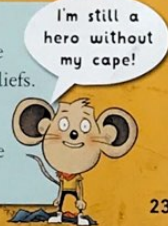
Nelson Mandela died in 2013. Thousands of South Africans and many world leaders came to his memorial service – so many that it had to be held in a football stadium.



The memorial service

So you see, heroes don't all look the same. They don't have capes or superpowers. But they do have one thing in common – they stand up for their beliefs.

To be a hero, you need to be brave enough to stand up for what you believe, even if other people say you're wrong.



Glossary

campaigned: organized activities to fight for change

degrees: awards received for passing exams at universities

governess: a woman who lives with a family to teach the children

political party: an organization with a view about how a country should be run

protest: to show that you disagree with somebody or something

racial segregation: dividing people because of the colour of their skin

rights: things that people should be allowed if they are being fairly treated

tribal: belonging to a specific tribe or group of people

voting in elections: helping to choose who is running a country

Index

apartheid	19, 20, 22
arrested	9, 15, 21
bus	13, 14, 15, 16
Emily Davison	5, 6–11
England	6, 7, 11
government	19, 20, 21
jail	9, 16, 21
laws	19, 20, 21, 22
Nelson Mandela	5, 18–23
prison	7, 12, 19, 21, 22, 23
Rosa Parks	5, 12–17
school	6, 12, 13, 18, 19
South Africa	18, 19, 23
suffragettes	8, 9, 11
USA	12
vote	7, 8, 11, 19, 23

