



Claudette Colvin

facts

Claudette Colvin was born on September 5th, 1939

Nine months before Rosa Parks, 15-year-old high school student, Claudette Colvin, became the first to refuse to give up her seat to a white passenger.

Claudette's personal heroes were Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

Colvin grew up in a black neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama. At a young age she noticed how people were treated differently. She attended an all-black school and was taught about inequalities that black people faced on a daily and black history. Black history used to be celebrated for one week, but Colvin's school celebrated for the whole month of February.

Claudette and her family wanted recognition for what she did together with Mary Louise Smith, Aurelia Browder, and Susie McDonald.

March second, 1955 Claudette and her friends finished school early. They got onto Montgomery bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. The bus driver had the authority assign seats to passengers. Colvin and her friends were seated in the middle of the bus. Two on the right and two on the left. A white passenger approached them and stood between them waiting for them to move farther back. Colvin's friends proceeded back but Claudette remained seated. Claudette stated "He wanted me to give up my seat for a white person and I would have done it for an elderly person, but this was a young white woman. Three of the students had got up reluctantly and I remained sitting next to the window," because Claudette refused, she got sentenced for several hours in jail then her minister paid her bail.



Claudette Colvin is 81 years old

Websites used:

<https://kidskonnnect.com/people/claurette-colvin/>

[https://markricks.medium.com/nah-rosa-parks-1955-](https://markricks.medium.com/nah-rosa-parks-1955-43171799) <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-43171799>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/articles/girl-who-acted-rosa-parks>

<https://www.biography.com/activist/claurette-colvin>