



PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE:

Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King

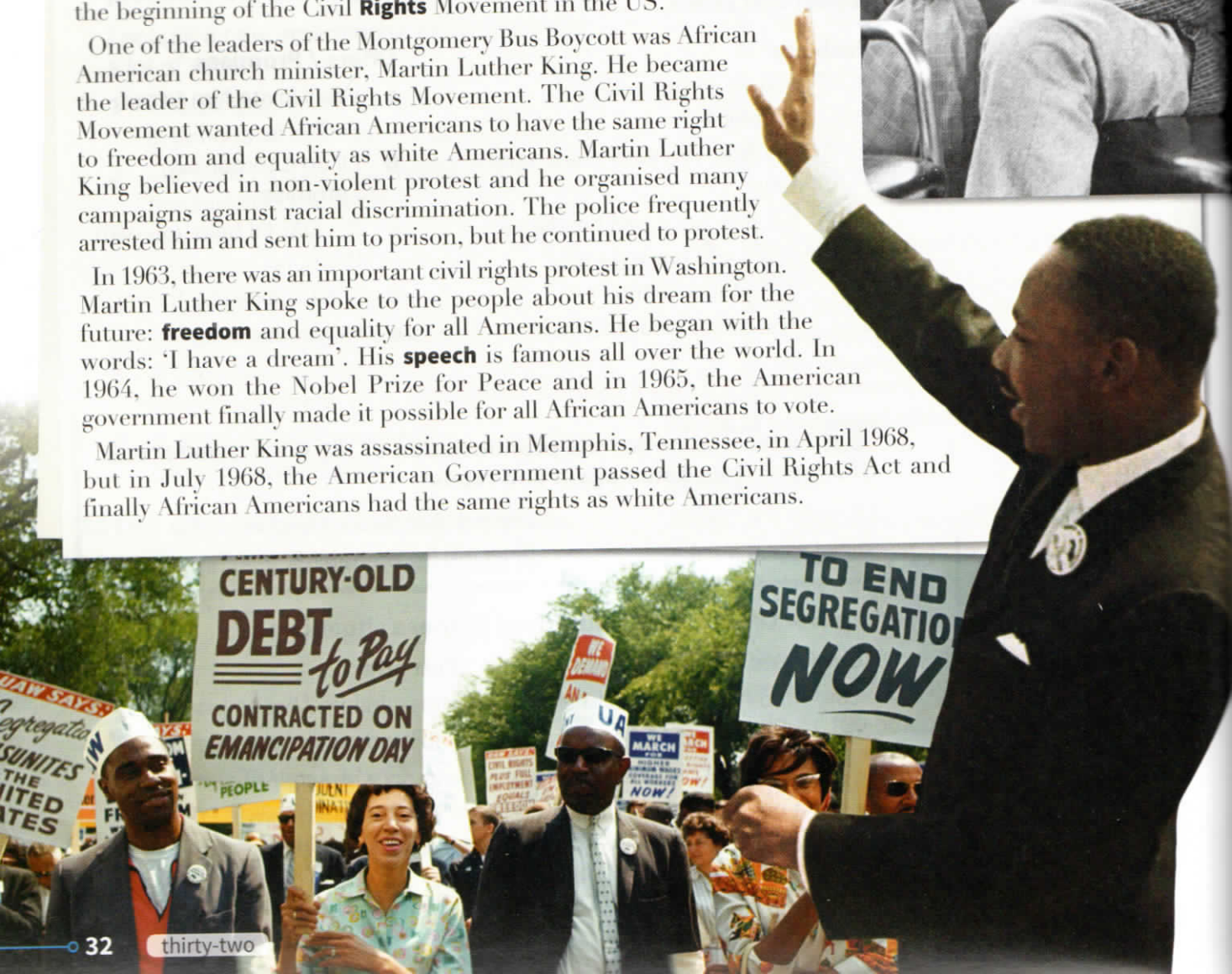
Did you know that African Americans in the 1950s couldn't go to the same schools as white Americans? On buses and trains, they had to sit in a different section from white passengers. African Americans had to go to different hospitals and shops and they couldn't eat in the same restaurants with white Americans. The **law** at the time said African Americans were 'separate but **equal**' – so they had to live separate lives from white Americans.

In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks (1913-2005), an African American woman, was on a bus on her way home from work. When she **refused** to give her seat to a white man, the bus driver called the police. The police arrested her and the Montgomery Bus Boycott began. 40,000 African Americans boycotted public buses for over a year. The protest only ended when racial segregation on buses stopped in 1956. This was the beginning of the Civil **Rights** Movement in the US.

One of the leaders of the Montgomery Bus Boycott was African American church minister, Martin Luther King. He became the leader of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights Movement wanted African Americans to have the same right to freedom and equality as white Americans. Martin Luther King believed in non-violent protest and he organised many campaigns against racial discrimination. The police frequently arrested him and sent him to prison, but he continued to protest.

In 1963, there was an important civil rights protest in Washington. Martin Luther King spoke to the people about his dream for the future: **freedom** and equality for all Americans. He began with the words: 'I have a dream'. His **speech** is famous all over the world. In 1964, he won the Nobel Prize for Peace and in 1965, the American government finally made it possible for all African Americans to vote.

Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in April 1968, but in July 1968, the American Government passed the Civil Rights Act and finally African Americans had the same rights as white Americans.



Glossary

| | |
|---------|----------|
| law | legge |
| equal | uguale |
| refused | rifiutò |
| rights | diritti |
| freedom | libertà |
| speech | discorso |



Reading

1 WARM UP Have you heard of Rosa Parks? What do you know about Martin Luther King?

2 Read and listen to the text. Write what happened in each year.



3 ES Re-read the text and answer the questions.

How did African Americans live in the 1950s?

They had to live separate lives from white Americans.

- What happened to Rosa Parks when she refused to give her seat to a white man?
- Why did the Montgomery Bus Boycott end?
- Who was Martin Luther King?
- What did the Civil Rights Movement want?
- What was Martin Luther King's dream?

Listening

4 Listen to Rosa Parks' biography and fill in the gaps.

Rosa Parks was born in Alabama in 1913. She wanted to be a (1), but had to leave school to help her mother and grandmother. In 1932, Rosa (2) Raymond Parks. They were both enthusiastic about Civil Rights. In 1955, Rosa worked in a (3) She received a special (4) from President Clinton in 1996. She (5) in 2005. She's a symbol of (6) and equality.

Speaking

5 K T In pairs. Ask and answer questions about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. Use the text on page 32 to help you.

Student A Prepare 4 questions to ask your partner about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Student B Prepare 4 questions to ask your partner about Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement.

A *Why is Rosa Parks famous?*

B *Who was Martin Luther King?*

B *She was ...*

A *He was ...*

Writing

6 ES Write a summary of the text about the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. Use the suggestions in the writing strategies box to help you.

Writing strategies

Rileggi il testo e sottolinea le frasi più importanti.

Cerca di riformulare i concetti con parole tue.

Unisci le frasi usando i connettori
first / then / after
that / finally e le
congiunzioni and /
but / so.