

Black History Month: Social Media Posts using content from Gale resources

Carnegie Mellon University. Prepared January 24, 2025 by Anne Nagrant

Rosa Parks Day (February 4)

2025 marks 70 years since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person on a Montgomery bus. The author of this 1970 article, Alfred Duckett, worked with Jackie Robinson on his autobiography and Martin Luther King on his speeches, including his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Here, Duckett laments the lack of scholarship on and archival traces of Rosa Park’s influential role in the Civil Rights movement. This article highlights the necessity of archives, such as the ones our library provides, in revealing the contributions of marginalized peoples during periods of great historical change. 55 years ago, Mr. Duckett suggests that the life of Rosa Parks be celebrated and taught widely. How much has that proposal come true?

My second proposal about Rosa Parks relates to placing her and her life and times like some wondrous gem in the historical setting which they deserve. As much as Martin Luther King’s, her life deserves to be filmed. Books for blacks and whites should be written about her. Our children who are indoctrinated heavily about the work of a white seamstress, Betsy Ross, who made the flag of which Messrs. Nixon, Agnew, Hope, and Graham are so proud, rate being told about a black seamstress who created a new banner of black pride, who sat down for the kind of freedom for which Americans have been supposed to stand up. So, where there are black studies, and white history books rewritten and made more truthful and where there are bedtime stories and parents’ knees for story-hungry black children to perch, and where there are teachers who are inspired to make curricula meaningful—wherever there are folk who know that it is nation time—is where the story should be told of Sister Rosa Parks; a beautiful, but near-forgotten black sister.

Read the whole essay within *Women’s Studies Archive*:

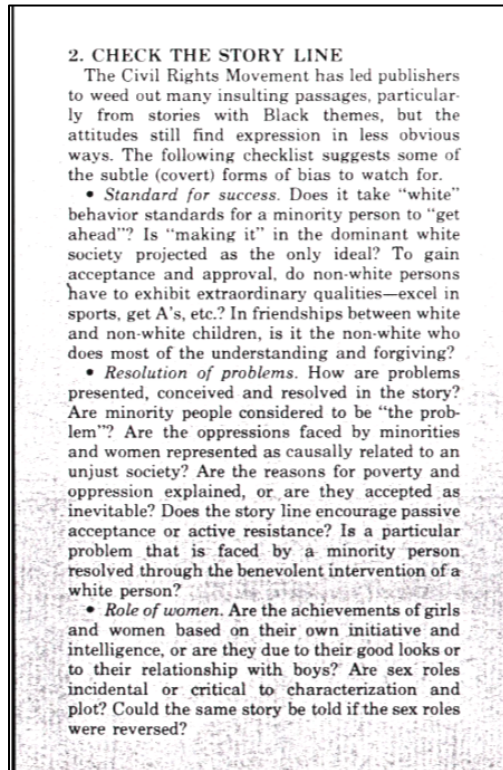
https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CMFQAY689332911/WMNS?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-WMNS&xid=2ceae653&pg=23

Additional images of this essay can be found, in various dimensions, here:

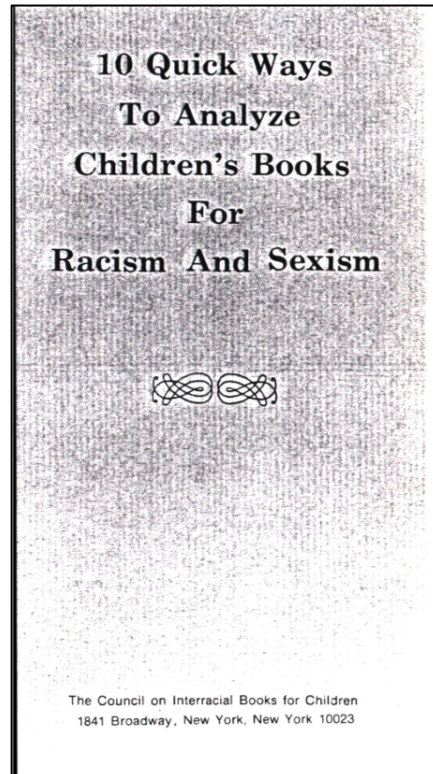
<https://cengage.box.com/s/2igsoojf2qm8ngle0rlur93n4utli4ry>

Media Representations – Detecting Racism

In the 1970s, The Council on Interracial Books and Children published a pamphlet to help adults teach children “how to detect racism and sexism in a book,” because repeated exposure to racist and sexist attitudes would “gradually distort their perceptions until stereotypes and myths about minorities and women are accepted as reality.” This tip (pictured) suggests ways to detect covert bias. What examples would you add?



from:



Source: https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/GGCXOO449245400/POPC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-POPC&xid=d6884dda&pg=3

Read the entire pamphlet in the library’s *Power to the People* archive:

https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/GGCXOO449245400/POPC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-POPC&xid=d6884dda&pg=1

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Perspectives on “I Have a Dream”

In 2013, *Time* magazine published essays reflecting on Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Shonda Rhimes reflected, “We are teetering on a tightrope between greatness and madness. A man of color can be President of the United States. A man of color can be shot for wearing a hoodie. We haven’t gotten to King’s promised land. There’s still work to be done.” What does King’s speech mean, to you?



TEETERING ON A TIGHTROPE
BY SHONDA RHIMES

I've known large parts of this speech by heart since before I could read. My father likes to quote the words of great men at the dinner table. King's definitely qualified.

To me, a child born in the '70s, the words of his speech seemed vaguely confusing. What was the fuss? King had a dream, and it came true: I held hands with the little white girl next door almost every day when I went out to play. As I got older, I came

to realize that while King's dream had become something of a reality in small pockets of America, in the larger world it was more ethereal.

We are living in a strange time in terms of race in this country. We're teetering on a tightrope between greatness and madness. A man of color can be President of the United States. A man of color can be shot for wearing a hoodie. We haven't gotten to King's promised land. There's still work to be done.

Rhimes is a writer and producer

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Read Shonda Rhimes’ full essay, along with reflections from Malala Yousafzai, Jesse Jackson, John Conyers, Colin Powell, and Maya Angelou, among others, in the library’s *Power to the People* archive: https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/UBUYEA308068407/POPC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-POPC&xid=292c890a&pg=382

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. – March to Selma

2025 marks 60 years since the famous Selma March, led by Martin Luther King, in which hundreds marched from Selma to Montgomery to protest Alabama's racism and to encourage Blacks to exercise their right to vote. This document from the FBI shows the insidious plots laid to intimidate the protestors and delegitimize the march, including segregationists dropping leaflets onto the protestors from an airplane and anti-integrationists plotting to fly the Soviet flag in Montgomery to make it appear as if the protestors were communist sympathizers. A threat to King's life was also reported:

Brigadier General H. V. Graham, who is in command of military coverage of the march, advised that a young unidentified Negro boy came up to him and stated a man dressed in the garb of a clergyman said he was going to kill Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. General Graham stated something diverted his attention; and when he turned around, the Negro boy had disappeared into the crowd of marchers. We are attempting to locate and interview this Negro boy.

We will continue to cover every phase of this march and advise you promptly of pertinent developments.

Read the entire 3-page (formerly) secret document in *US Declassified Documents Online*:
https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349516289/USDD?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-USDD&xid=3f531b92&pg=1

Additional images of page 1 of this document can be found, in various dimensions, here:
<https://cengage.box.com/s/ta7n6qtrn4aun3ecdbbpzar61ru1zzwq>

Civil Rights Stories – Pittsburgh Urban League

Our digital library includes the first-hand accounts from 500+ individuals who fought for voting rights, for school desegregation, against housing discrimination, against racism in hiring practices, against police brutality, and to address poverty in African American communities. Interviewed from 1967 to 1973, their stories shed light on the civil rights movement.

Lester B. Granger led the National Urban League from 1941 to 1961. In his 1968 oral history interview with John Britton, Granger credits the Pittsburgh Urban League for coining the popular phrase that “Negroes were the last hired, first fired” after World War I.

BRITTON: Keeping in mind that it has always been said that
Negroes were the last hired, first fired, particularly in that era--

GRANGER: May I get this plug in?

BRITTON: Yes.

GRANGER: Because the Pittsburgh Urban League had coined that
phrase.

Source: https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5109594778/GDSC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=c09f29e2&pg=11

Read the entire interview here:

https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5109594778/GDSC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=c09f29e2&pg=1

Explore the entire Ralph J. Bunche Oral Histories Collection on the Civil Rights Movement, in *Archives Unbound*:

https://link.gale.com/apps/collection/6ORZ/GDSC?u=cmu_main&sid=bookmark-GDSC