Test the Claim

Use details from a historical account to judge what the evidence proves.

7.P.3.2.B "Evaluate textual evidence to determine whether a claim is substantiated."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that could support a claim about the boycott. Circle one detail that could challenge or limit a different claim.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott

1 On December 1, 1955, police arrested Rosa Parks after she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus. Black residents organized a boycott of city buses that began on December 5. Instead of riding, many people walked, shared rides, or used taxis. The boycott lasted 381 days. Local bus service depended heavily on Black riders, so refusing to ride could put financial pressure on the bus system. The boycott also demanded an end to unfair treatment on buses.

2 Before the boycott began, members of the Women's Political Council handed out leaflets urging Black residents not to ride the buses on December 5. The leaflets called for a one-day protest. After that first day, the Montgomery Improvement Association helped organize a longer boycott, and Martin Luther King Jr. served as its president. Black residents who supported the protest faced long walks and other hardships. A leaflet can show what organizers requested, but it cannot by itself show how many residents followed that request.

3 The boycott continued while a court case challenged bus segregation. In November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ruling that segregated seating on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional. After city officials received the order to end segregation, boycott leaders called off the protest in December. The case was brought by four Black women who had faced discrimination on city buses. Rosa Parks was not one of those four plaintiffs. The ruling dealt with bus seating, not every form of segregation in the city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A student claims the bus boycott took sustained effort, not just a single afternoon. Which two details substantiate that claim?

2. Does the passage substantiate the claim that every Black resident avoided the buses on every day of the boycott? Explain using the text.

3. A student claims the first leaflets asked residents to stay off the buses for 381 days. Does the evidence support that claim? Explain.

4. A student claims the court ruling ended every form of segregation in Montgomery. Does the passage substantiate that claim? Explain.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make a new claim about two different ways people challenged bus segregation. Use one detail from the first paragraph and one from the third to explain whether your claim is substantiated, then state one thing those details cannot prove.

ANSWER KEY

Test the Claim

GRADE 7 · 7.P.3.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that could support a claim about the boycott. Circle one detail that could challenge or limit a different claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A student claims the bus boycott took sustained effort, not just a single afternoon. Which two details substantiate that claim?	**The boycott lasted 381 days, and supporters faced long walks and other hardships.**
2	Does the passage substantiate the claim that every Black resident avoided the buses on every day of the boycott? Explain using the text.	**No. The passage says many people used other ways to travel, but it gives no evidence about every resident on every day.**
3	A student claims the first leaflets asked residents to stay off the buses for 381 days. Does the evidence support that claim? Explain.	**No. The leaflets called for a one-day protest on December 5; the boycott continued afterward.**
4	A student claims the court ruling ended every form of segregation in Montgomery. Does the passage substantiate that claim? Explain.	**No. The ruling dealt with segregated bus seating, not every form of segregation in the city.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People challenged bus segregation through both travel choices and a court case. Many people walked or shared rides instead of taking buses, and four Black women brought a case challenging bus segregation. These details substantiate the claim because they show action outside the courtroom and inside it. They do not prove that every resident took part in the boycott.

Accept other accurate, relevant details that justify each judgment. For Your Turn, look for a distinct claim, evidence from both specified paragraphs, an explanation of its strength, and a reasonable limit.