

Your Name Meghan Graham

Date 10/8/14

Genre: Biography

## Literary Analysis

### Bibliographic Information:

Shanahan, D., & Edwards, P. (2005). *The Bus Ride that Changed History: The Story of Rosa Parks*. HMH Books for Young Readers.

### Plot:

**Enjoyable:** This book gives an interesting spin on something that can be seen to be very boring: history. It uses a unique “ride through history” approach to accurately explain the events that took place on Rosa Parks’ bus.

**Well-Constructed plot:** I believe that this book does a wonderful job with explaining history and keeping it organized at the same time. It provides an interesting approach to the retelling of this event and is sure to keep students engaged.

### Setting:

**Location:** This story takes place in Montgomery, Alabama where Rosa Parks took her brave stand for her rights.

**Time:** This book takes place during 1955 during the Civil Right Movement. This is an important background to understand because it was during a time that was crucial for African Americans. This where segregation began to disintegrate and all because of a few brave people who decided to take a stand, including Rosa Parks.

### Theme:

**Embedded Theme:** I believe the theme is that everyone is equal. No matter the skin color, a person is a person and should be treated just as that. This book sheds light on the fact that we are all equals and no one is to be better than the other. I also believe the goal of this book is to teach this concept and remember the brave people who took a stand to make a change.

**Is it worth imparting?** I believe that the concepts this book teaches are extremely important to know and understand. It is important that students understand that they are all equals and that skin color is not something that a person should be judged by but rather should celebrate.

### Characterization:

**Narration:** This story is told through narration. All characters are revealed through the narrator.

**Convincing and Credible:** Because this is a biography, we know that all facts must be accurate and true. If we were to do outside research we would find that they are accurate, making the characters presented in this book both convincing and credible.

**Style:**

**Appropriate:** The style aligns with a biography but also gives an interesting spin as to how it is presented. We are treated as if we are on a “tour” throughout the history that changed America.

**Point of View:**

**Appropriate:** This story is solely told through narration. I feel like this is an appropriate point of view since it is still history based.

**Describe Characteristics of this text specific to the genre:**

**Factual Accuracy:** Even though this story is presented in a way that does not just simply list facts, it is still considered to be very accurate. Facts presented in this book align exactly with the events that took place in 1955.

**Interpretation of Author:** In our textbook it states that, “no matter how impartial the author might be, a life story cannot be written without some interpretation.” I believe that the author did just that when the story was told through a different view than just telling the events that took place.

**Reflections:**

I really liked this book because I felt like I was immediately engaged as soon as I began reading it. I have always been the student that got very bored when it came to history so the fact that this story captured me really means something. I feel like this would be a great book to use to introduce history and biographies to young readers because it gives them a chance to see that history does not necessarily have to be long and dreadful.