

Otto's Tales



TODAY IS
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

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Published by PragerU
15021 Ventura Boulevard #552
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

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TODAY IS
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



Ruff Ruff!

I'm Otto. Today is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. My best friend, Dennis, jumped onto the couch.

"Hey, Otto!" he shouted. "It's time for another adventure!"



"Oh, boy!" I barked. "I love going back in time and learning about history. What are we going to do today?"

Dennis said, "Today, we're going to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a very important American. He changed the history of our country and the world!"



We pretended our couch was a station wagon and Dennis started to drive.

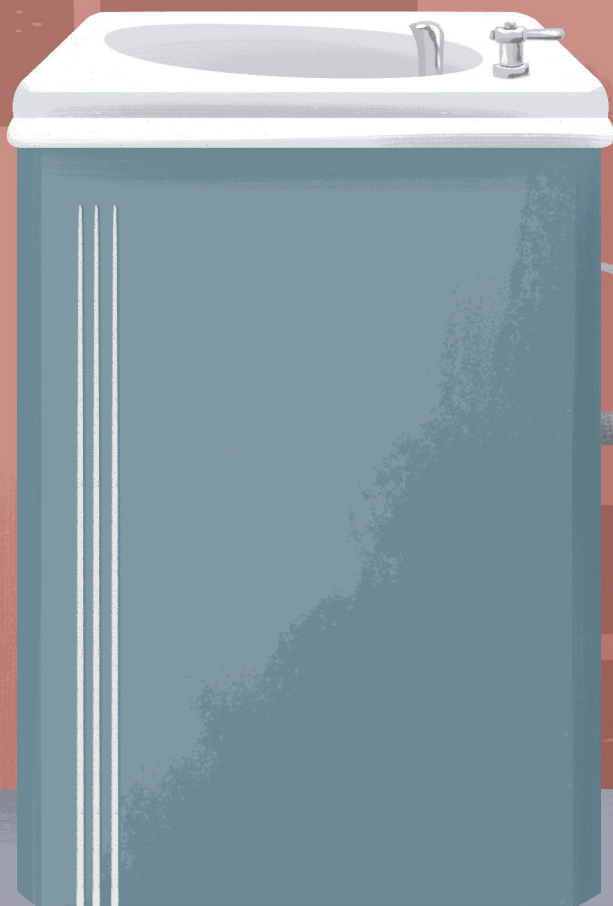
ZOOM... With my head sticking out the window, we drove to 1955.

We stopped in Alabama where there was racial **segregation**.

Black and white people couldn't be together; there was forced separation.

WHITE

COLORED



Jim Crow Laws were in place, which were mean and unfair. Bathrooms and water fountains were illegal for both races to share.

“Dennis,” I said, “these signs of segregation are a terrible sight.”

“Yes, Otto, the way black people are being treated just isn’t right.”



We saw a woman getting on a bus and I asked my friend, “Who’s that?”
“Her name is **Rosa Parks**,” said Dennis, and on the bus she sat.
She was in the front section for whites, even though she was black.
“Get up,” they told her. “You have to go to the back!”



Rosa was tired of this unfair treatment and refused to move.
“The situation for blacks,” she said, “has to be improved.”
“I’ve heard about what Rosa Parks did,” Dennis whispered to me.
“Her name is now in history books for everyone to see.”

Dennis continued, “She helped the **Montgomery Bus Boycott** begin in the south.

The news of this movement spread by fliers and word of mouth.”



ZOOM...we flew forward four days to a church on Holt Street. I barked, “Look at the thousands of people, all coming here to meet.”

There was a man standing in front, speaking to the crowd. Then the people clapped and cheered—the sound was so loud!





I asked, "Is that the leader of this important movement?"
"Yes," said Dennis. "**Martin Luther King, Jr.** fought for blacks' improvement."



We ran up to him and said, “How do you do?”

We’re Dennis and Otto. It’s an honor to meet you!”

“Hello,” he said. “My name is Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.”

I said, “We’re learning about the **Civil Rights Movement**, such an important thing.”



“I’ve learned all about you,” Dennis said. “You’re a local pastor. When it comes to giving speeches, you’re a true master.”

I said, “We see that blacks are segregated and that isn’t right.”

“Yes,” said Reverend King. “The equal treatment of all races is a moral fight.”



He continued, “We believe in America, but we will not suffer in silence. We will make our voices heard, though we will never use violence.”

“Dennis,” I whispered, “what happened to Reverend King?”

“Let’s get back into our car, Otto, to see what the future will bring.”

“Come on, Dennis,” I said. “I want to see.”

Back in our station wagon and **ZOOM...**off to 1963.



“Where are we, Dennis, and what is all this?”

“It’s the **March on Washington**, a sight not to be missed.”



Then we heard a familiar voice begin to preach.

We looked up and realized Reverend King was giving a speech.

He said, “The Founding Fathers made equality the promise of the United States.

It’s time to fulfill that promise and end discrimination by race.”



“I have a dream,” said Dr. King, “that my children will live in a world of racial integration.

I dream that things will be better for them and the next generation.”

“I have a dream that my children,” continued this amazing orator, “won’t be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

Our hearts were filled with hope as we watched King’s inspiring speech.

“This message of equality,” said Dennis, “is something every teacher should teach.”





Hopeful about the future, we got into our car and began to drive.

ZOOM...we flew forward again to the year 1965.

We arrived at the White House on a hot, summer day.

“That’s **President Johnson**,” said Dennis,
“some call him **LBJ**.”

But then came the real surprise, to our great delight.

Next to the president, Reverend King came into sight.

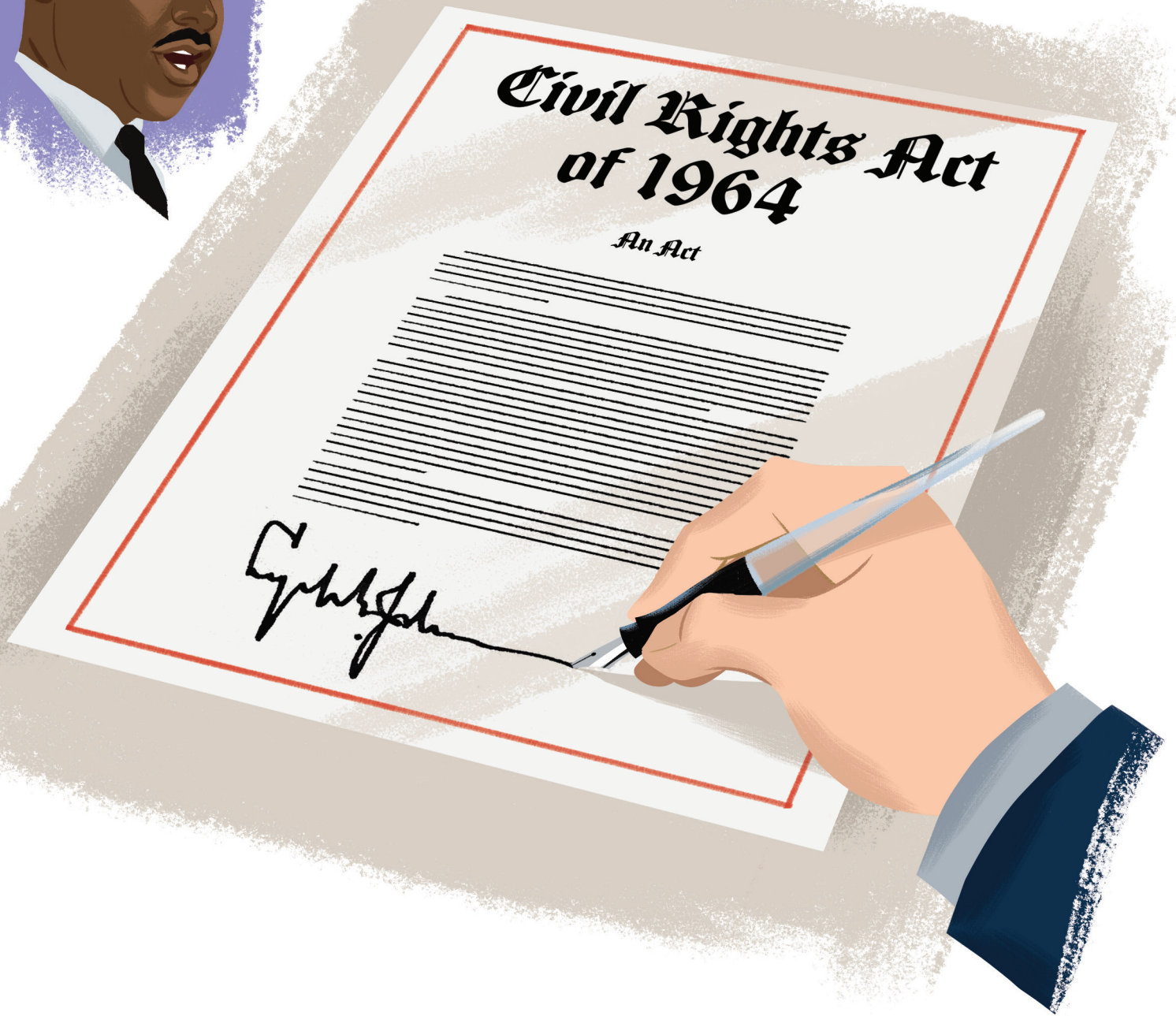




I asked Dr. King, “What is happening?” while Dennis scratched my back. With a proud smile, he replied, “The president is signing the **Voting Rights Act.**”

“Sounds important,” I said. “What does it do?”

“It ensures all blacks can vote; it’s a real breakthrough.”



Dr. King continued, “There was also the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**, which means that blacks and whites can't be segregated anymore.”



“That’s wonderful,” I said. “We must treat everyone well and be kind.”

“Yes, Otto,” said Dennis. “We should all be colorblind.”

“We’ve got to get home,” we said, and then again ***ZOOM...***
VROOM, VROOM, VROOM, back to Dennis’s room.

“That was my favorite adventure yet!” I barked.

“You say that every time, Otto.”

“Well, I never knew what an important man Martin Luther King, Jr. was!”

“Yes, Otto, he was a true defender of equality and justice.”







“Did he really change the world with his message that we shouldn’t judge others by the color of their skin?”

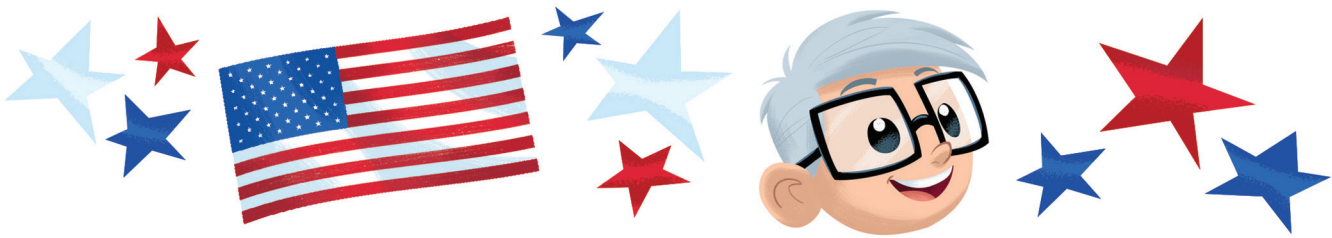
“He sure did, Otto. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we remember his many achievements. He reminds us that *all* Americans are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

“I’m so glad we got to meet him!” I barked.

“Me too, Otto. Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!”

“Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! **Ruff Ruff!**”





We Love Our History

Segregation: The institutional separation of people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, especially as a form of discrimination.

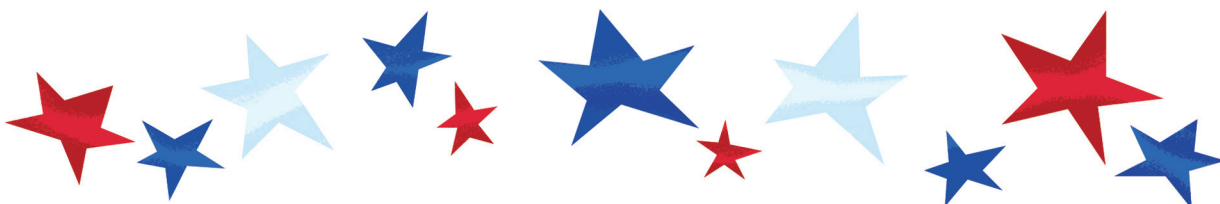
Jim Crow Laws: State and local laws in the U.S. South, in effect from the late 19th century until the 1960s, which discriminated against blacks, treating them as second-class citizens.

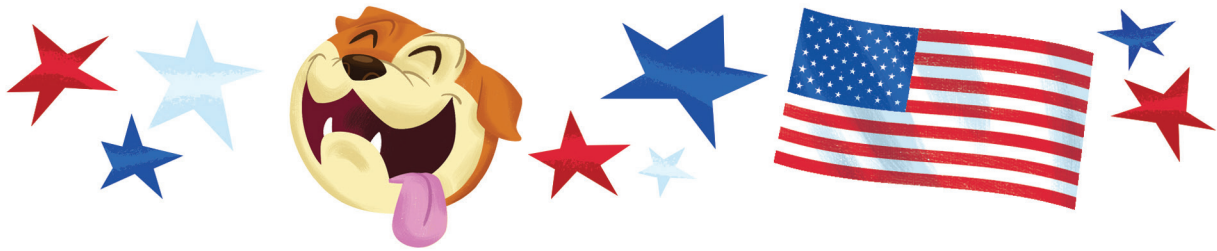
Rosa Parks: A black seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama. She became a leader of the Civil Rights Movement when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person on December 1, 1955, and inspired activists around the world.

Montgomery Bus Boycott: A movement, from 1955 to 1956, in which activists, especially black Americans, protested against racial segregation in Montgomery, Alabama's public bus system. The boycott succeeded in its goal in December 1956 when the Supreme Court effectively ended bus segregation in its *Browder v. Gayle* decision.

Holt Street: Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to nearly 5,000 people at the Holt Street Baptist Church in Montgomery on December 5, 1955, just four days after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to relinquish her seat on a Montgomery city bus.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: The leader of the American Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. He fought against discrimination and for equal rights for all with his philosophy of non-violence.





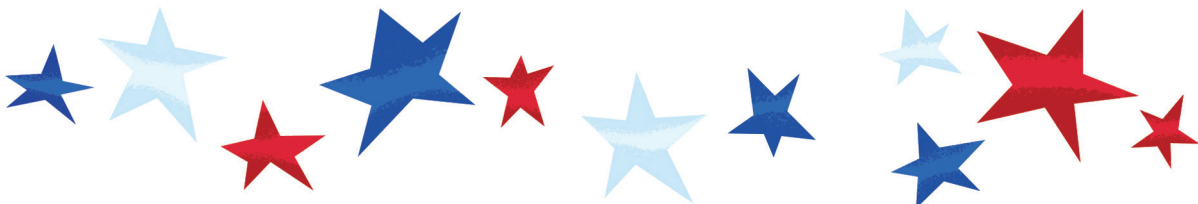
Civil Rights Movement: A large, organized effort during the 1950s and 1960s, largely led by black leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., to fight for the civil rights of all Americans. It sought the end of discrimination and segregation and the guarantee of citizenship and voting rights.

March on Washington: A major event in the history of the Civil Rights Movement, where Martin Luther King, Jr. led approximately 250,000 people on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963 to demonstrate in support of equality in America.

President Johnson/LBJ: Lyndon B. Johnson was the 36th President of the United States, from 1963-1969. He signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Voting Rights Act: A bill signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965 that protects the voting rights of all Americans. It specifically protects minorities who, previously, were prevented from voting because of their race.

Civil Rights Act: A bill signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964 that ended discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin.



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**See you in
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis and Otto

ABOUT

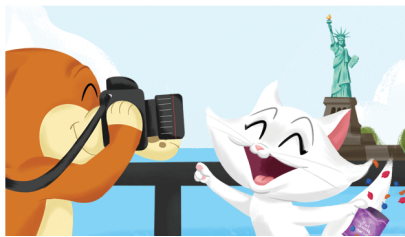
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TODAY IS
Celebrating American
holidays & traditions



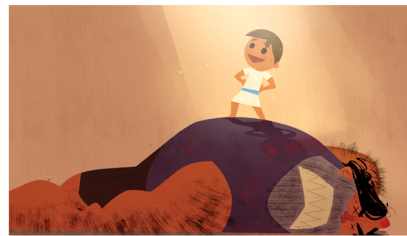
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