

Name:

Day One

The Long Road to Freedom

Part 1: Silent read

→ Who were the Freedom Riders? Read silently.

Helen Singleton visited Virginia each summer, when she was a girl. It took her family fourteen hours to drive from Pennsylvania. Yet they could not stop for food anywhere. There were no places for African Americans to eat along the way. Instead, her mom cooked for hours the night before each trip. To Helen, “this seemed so wrong, but it was a fact.”

In Virginia, Helen saw segregation firsthand. Her experiences prompted her to help change things. In 1961, Helen Singleton was in college. She and her husband, Robert Singleton, became Freedom Riders. They traveled on public buses throughout the South. Segregation on these buses was supposed to be illegal. But the federal government had not made southern states obey the laws.

The Freedom Riders had a clear goal. They wanted to draw people’s attention to segregation. The Freedom Riders came from different backgrounds. About half were White, and half were Black. One in four was a woman. They knew participating was dangerous. However, Freedom Riders believed in the power of non-violent protest. They were trained not to respond even when screamed at or spit on.

The Freedom Riders were often attacked and beaten on their trips. Hundreds of Freedom Riders spent time in jail in terrible conditions. People everywhere started to take notice. They pressured the federal government to enforce the law. In the end, the Freedom Riders won! New rules were put in place, supported by heavy fines. Bus stations across the South began to desegregate.

Sources: “Helen Singleton,” crmvvet.org.

“UCLA to Honor Alumni Who Fought as Freedom Riders,” UCLA Newsroom, January 29, 2015.



Day One

// one minute

The Long Road to Freedom

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did the Freedom Riders ride buses together in the South?

Where did Helen travel with her family each summer, as a girl?

Day One

The Long Road to Freedom

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Helen Singleton visited Virginia each summer, / when she was a girl. // It took her family fourteen hours / to drive from Pennsylvania. // Yet they could not stop for food anywhere. // There were no places / for African Americans to eat along the way. // Instead, / her mom cooked for hours / the night before each trip. // To Helen, / “this seemed so wrong, / but it was a fact.” //

In Virginia, / Helen saw segregation firsthand. // Her experiences prompted her / to help change things. // In 1961, / Helen Singleton was in college. // She and her husband, / Robert Singleton, / became Freedom Riders. // They traveled on public buses / throughout the South. // Segregation on these buses / was supposed to be illegal. // But the federal government / had not made southern states obey the laws. //

The Freedom Riders had a clear goal. // They wanted to draw people’s attention / to segregation. // The Freedom Riders came from different backgrounds. // About half were White, / and half were Black. // One in four was a woman. // They knew participating was dangerous. // However, / Freedom Riders believed in the power of non-violent protest. // They were trained not to respond / even when screamed at or spit on. //

The Freedom Riders were often attacked and beaten / on their trips. // Hundreds of Freedom Riders spent time in jail / in terrible conditions. // People everywhere started to take notice. // They pressured the federal government / to enforce the law. // In the end, / the Freedom Riders won! // New rules were put in place, / supported by heavy fines. // Bus stations across the South began to desegregate. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.