



# TAKING A STAND





## Talk About It

These people took a stand for equality in 1963. What is something in your life that you would take a stand on?



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## Vocabulary

defiance	convictions
evident	oppression
resonated	momentum
persistent	remedies

## Context Clues

Sometimes writers give clues that help readers understand the meanings of words.

In “*resonated like an echo*,” echo is a clue that helps readers understand *resonated*.

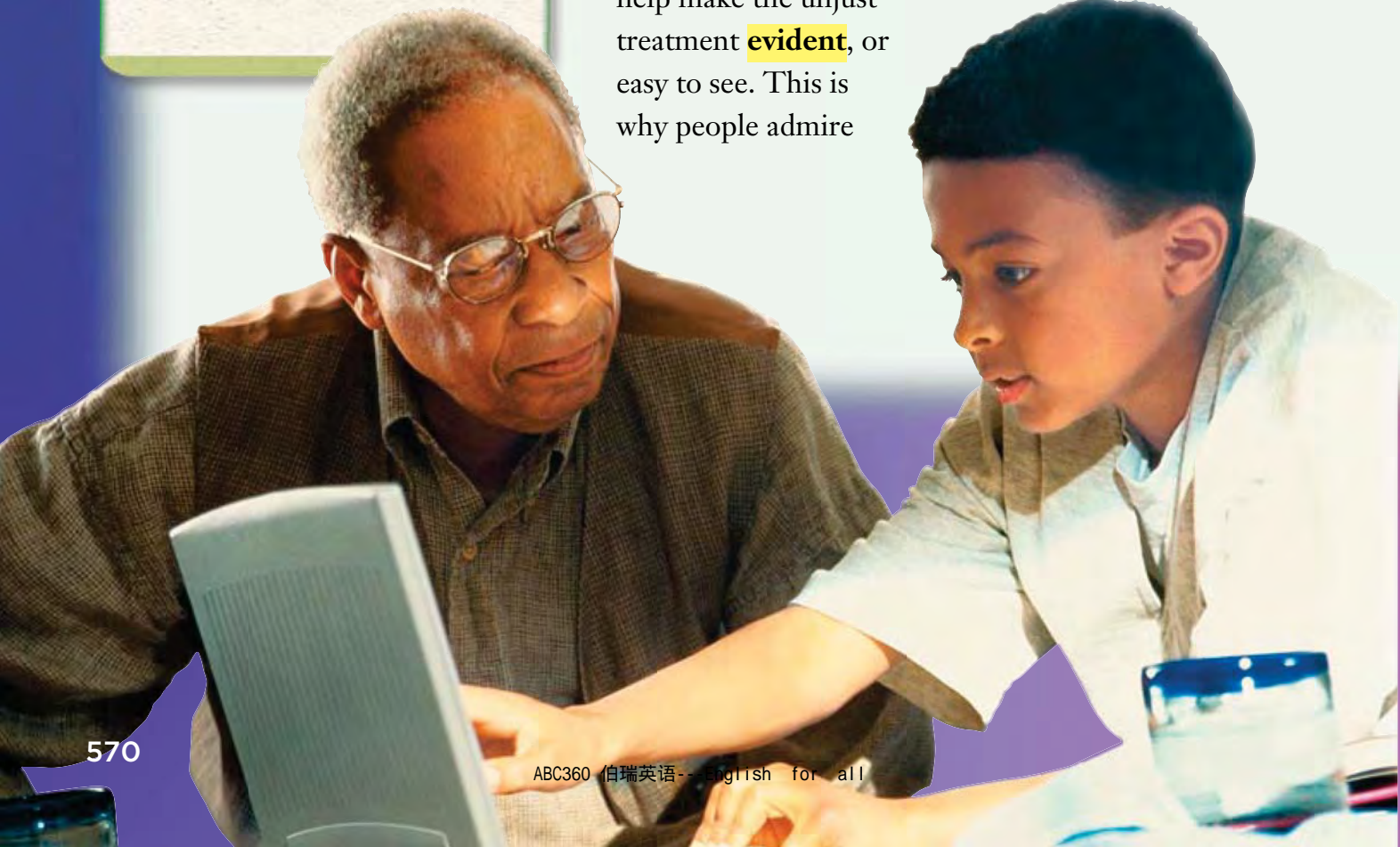
# Rosa Parks

## and the Institute



by Alana Phillips

What do you think of when you hear the name Rosa Parks? Do you think of the word *freedom*? Do you see a public bus in your mind’s eye? Rosa Parks is known for her **defiance** when she was faced with unfair treatment. In other words, Rosa Parks refused to follow the rules when she knew in her heart that those rules were wrong. She wanted to help make the unjust treatment **evident**, or easy to see. This is why people admire



Rosa Parks. To some, her actions have **resonated** like an echo that says, “Fight for your beliefs. Fight for your beliefs. Fight for your beliefs.”

Throughout her life, Rosa Parks was **persistent** in fighting for her beliefs. For example, she never stopped trying to help Americans. This is why she started the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development.

In 1987, Rosa Parks and her friend Elaine Easton Steele started the institute together. Rosa Parks wished her husband could have been included, but he passed away in 1977. Rosa Parks remembered her husband’s strong **convictions**. One of his strongest beliefs was in civil rights for all. Raymond Parks, like his wife, believed that no person should suffer **oppression**, or cruel treatment, just because of the color of his or her skin. Rosa Parks

honored her husband’s memory by including his name in the institute’s title.

The institute offers many programs for today’s youth. One of the main programs is called Pathways to Freedom. Children in the program can trace the path of the Underground Railroad. They learn about history and about the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

The success of this program helped the institute gain **momentum**. With this strength and force, new programs have moved forward. One of its most popular programs has youngsters teaching senior citizens how to use computers! Like the **remedies** that doctors offer the sick, the institute offers a cure for those who suffer from loneliness. The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute offers people a place to connect to the past, to the future, and to each other.

## Reread for Comprehension



### Monitor Comprehension

#### Summarize

When you summarize, you retell the most important parts of a selection. This helps you to monitor your understanding of the story. A Summary Chart will help you take notes on the selection. You can use these notes to write a summary. Use the Summary Chart as you reread “Rosa Parks and the Institute.”

