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Imagine the year is 1776 and you are a young black person. You live in Africa, enjoying life with your family and friends. One day, you wake up to a loud, unfamiliar noise. You panic and run outside to see what the commotion is. It's Americans abducting everyone you have ever known, your brother, your mother, your best friend. One of the Americans notices you, runs to you, and seizes you as well. You are brought back to America by ship and your life is now as a slave.

When asked what the month of February reminds you of, you would typically say something like Valentine's Day or Groundhog's Day. Well, there is another important event that takes place in February. This event is no other than Black History Month, and this Black History Month may just be more important than usual with the protests that occurred in 2020. Black History Month includes multiple days for black historical figures such as Harriet Jacobs, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, and many others that created lasting changes that still stand today.

Harriet Jacobs, famously known as Harriet Tubman, led dozens of slaves to freedom in the span of 13 trips. On March 1822, Araminta Ross was born in Dorchester County, Maryland. Spending the majority of her life in slavery, she mustered up enough courage and escaped from her owner's plantation to Philadelphia at the young age of 27. That alone took enough courage, but she turned right back around, snuck back into Maryland, and helped family members escape the plantation. As a token of her bravery, she will be the first woman – and of color – to appear on American currency.

Rosa Parks, a strong representative of breaking down the black-white segregation, was born on February 4th, 1913. On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks stood up, or rather sat down, for herself when she was asked to get out of her seat on the public bus for a white man. Causing disorder in Montgomery, Alabama, she was later arrested that day. Her arrest brought about the

Montgomery Bus Boycott, made up of over 17,000 black citizens. About thirteen months later, the Supreme Court enforced the city to desegregate the buses.

At the exceptionally tender age of six, Ruby Bridges was the first African American student to join an all-white elementary school in the South. Ruby Bridges was the oldest of five children, born on September 8, 1954. Ruby's parents, Lucille and Abon Bridges, set their hearts on having their eldest daughter go to school. Ruby took an entrance exam for African American students at William Frantz Elementary School and was one of six students to pass the exam. Gathering up all her courage in her tiny body, she walked alongside her mother and four federal marshals every day to her new school. Still alive to this day, Ruby Bridges Hall, is a civil rights speaker, author, and advocate.

Possibly the most commonly known black name, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March. Washington August 28, 1963, he pleaded for justice for a total of seventeen minutes, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of a day that black and white children can play hand in hand; that black and white women can marry and not be judged so. One hundred years before delivering his speech, Negroes were, and to that day as well, "sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination." It is truly shameful of our country that black people are still targeted and judged for the color of their skin.

I have a dream, that in this lifetime, racism and modern segregation will cease.