

Trailblazers of History: A Journey with Ellie

Learning objective: To analyse the contributions of significant historical figures and use evidence from a text to justify an opinion.

Read the passage about three inspirational figures below. Use your detective skills to answer the questions, paying close attention to how these individuals changed the world for the better.

Ellie the elephant has an incredible memory, and she loves to share stories about people who changed the world. This Black History Month, she wants us to remember three remarkable figures. First, Mary Seacole, a pioneering nurse who travelled across the world to treat wounded soldiers during the Crimean War, often using her own money to provide comfort and medicine. Second, Walter Tull, who showed immense resilience as one of the first Black professional footballers in Britain before becoming a brave officer in the First World War. Finally, Rosa Parks, whose quiet act of courage on a bus in America ignited a global movement for equality and justice. Each of these individuals faced great challenges, yet they stood firm in their beliefs, proving that one person's actions can create a ripple of change that lasts for generations.

Word bank: courageous · injustice · pioneering · contribution · resilience · advocacy

1. Identify two character traits that Mary Seacole, Walter Tull, and Rosa Parks all shared. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author uses the metaphor of a 'ripple of change' to describe the impact of these individuals. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the roles of Mary Seacole and Walter Tull. How were their contributions to society different? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Which of these three figures do you believe displayed the most 'resilience'? Why? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Rosa Parks had not taken the action she did on that bus? Predict the potential consequences for the movement for equality. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Tree of History'. On the roots, write the names of the people Ellie mentioned. On the branches, draw symbols representing their achievements (for example, a medicine bottle for Mary Seacole, a football for Walter Tull, or a bus for Rosa Parks).



Extension challenge: Research one other person who has made a significant contribution to Black history. Write a short, persuasive speech (150 words) explaining why this person deserves to have a statue built in their honour in your local town centre.