

I Viola Desmond

Read about Viola Desmond. Then answer the questions.

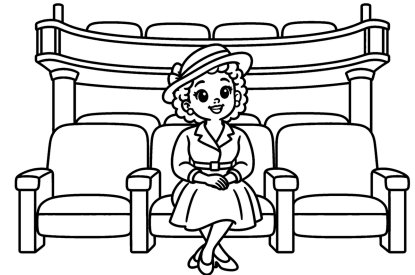
1 Read about Viola Desmond.

Viola Desmond was a Black businesswoman from Halifax, Nova Scotia. She ran a beauty school and sold beauty products that she made herself.

On **November 8, 1946**, her car broke down in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. While it was being fixed, she went to see a movie at the Roseland Theatre. She asked for a main floor ticket, but the cashier sold her a balcony ticket. In that theatre, Black people had to sit in the balcony.

Viola sat on the main floor, where she could see the screen better, and she would not move. Police took her away, and she spent the night in jail. A court fined her.

Viola's brave stand helped many Canadians see that **segregation** was unfair. In **2010**, Nova Scotia gave her a **pardon**. In **2018**, her picture went on Canada's ten-dollar bill.



a theatre with a balcony

Word help

segregation

keeping people apart because of the colour of their skin

pardon

when the government clears a person's name

2 Number the events in order from 1 to 4.

☐ Viola's picture goes on the ten-dollar bill.

☐ Nova Scotia gives Viola a pardon.

☐ Viola's car breaks down in New Glasgow.

☐ Viola sits on the main floor and will not move.

3 Think and write.

1. Why was it unfair that Viola was sold a balcony ticket?

2. Viola was brave. What would you like to say to her?
