



Green Book Vocabulary

Below are some names and vocabulary words that you may come across while learning about *The Green Book* or reading *Ruth and the Green Book* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey.

Activist – a person who takes action to bring about social or political change.

Advocate – a person who speaks supportively on behalf of a person, group, or cause.

Automobile – another name for car.

Civil Rights – the basic rights that everyone should have no matter their skin color, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or age.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 – the law that legally ended segregation in public places.

Colored – one of the names commonly used to identify African Americans during segregation. Today it is outdated and inappropriate unless reading historical documents or writings.

Community – a group of people with common interests, values, customs, or identity.

Cooperation – working with others to get something done.

Degrade – to cause someone to be or feel less than who they are.

Discriminate – to unfairly treat a person or group differently from other people or groups.

Embarrassment – a feeling of being uncomfortable or ashamed.

Enforce – to make people obey.

Esso Service Station – A gas station company during segregation that was often welcoming to African Americans and sold the *Green Book*.

Equal Rights – everyone is treated the same by law.

Forbid – to not allow.

Garage – a shop where vehicles are fixed.

Grassroots – people in a certain district, region, or community that work together to get something done.

Green Book – the shortened title of *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, *The Negro Travelers' Green Book*, or *The Travelers' Green Book*. These books helped African Americans travel safely during segregation.

Hostile – unfriendly, mean, showing dislike.

Injustice – lack of justice or fairness.

Integration – bringing together.

Jim Crow Laws – laws that segregated and discriminated against African Americans from the late 1800s - 1960s.

Motorist – a person who travels by car.

Navigate – finding the way from place to place.

Negro – one of the names commonly used to identify African Americans during the *Green Book's* time. Today it is outdated and inappropriate unless reading historical documents or writings.

Network – a group of interconnected people.

Oasis Space – a pleasant or safe place surrounded by something unpleasant or unsafe.

Opportunity – a chance for a better situation

Privilege – a right or benefit that is given only to a certain person, group, or social class

Protest – when people come together to show that they support or are against an idea or event.

Publish – make available for the public to read.

Resistance – ability to survive the force or effect of something. The *Green Book* was a resistance tool that allowed African Americans to live and work under Jim Crow.

Restriction – something that limits.

Segregation – separating a race, class, or group of people from the rest of society. During the *Green Book's* time, African Americans were segregated from whites and not allowed to mix with them in public spaces. Sometimes they were not allowed into an area at all. Other times, they had a separate space.

Tourist Home – a private home with rooms for rent. During segregation, African American hotels or motels were often only located in the big cities. Tourist Homes were more common to find in smaller towns or rural places.

Victor H. Green – a New York City postman who created the *Green Book*.