



Jackie Robinson

Overcoming prejudice and hatred, Jackie Robinson broke the color line and became one of baseball's best players. He was recognized in the Hall of Fame. He has inspired many young people to fight segregation and ignorance for the chance to follow their dreams. Through both his career and his character, Jackie Robinson became one of America's greatest heroes.

Read out loud!

The teacher can model by reading the first paragraph of a chapter. Then, students can read one at a time or in groups, a chapter at a time. This can take several classes or sessions.

AND an audiobook helps with fluency and retention. Ask students to call out any words that need pronunciation help.

You will encounter some **vocabulary** that you can discuss ahead of time:

prejudice	slavery	inning
discrimination	track-and-field	batting average
Ku Klux Klan	racism	Triple A
minor league	Hall of Fame	strike (labor action)
major league	color line	bias
Jim Crow laws	roster	exhibition game
segregation	Negro League	commissioner

Here are some **videos** that illustrate a few of the figures and events outlined in the book. Use these to begin discussions about:

- **Jackie Robinson:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VE0-ynbg4A>
- **Satchel Paige:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jobmPs33fO8>
- **Negro League:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0udcvoq662w>
- **The famous Shuba handshake:**
<https://www.msnbc.com/politicsnation/watch/remembering-george-shuba-337159747750>

Class **activities and discussions:**

- Baseball! Identify hitter, pitcher, runner, homer, bases, outfield, infield, errors, stealing a base. You can use a baseball diamond drawn on the board or in notebooks to explain and “place” players.
- Question: What is your favorite sport?
- Question: What is your favorite sports team?
- Question: Do you have a sports hero? What makes him or her special?
- Question: Why do players wear No. 42 on April 15th every year?
- Discussion topic: sports heroes and what they mean to us
- Discussion topic: racial inequality in America



Jackie Robinson by Joe Schuster, read by Charles Coe

Putting a finger on the text while listening to the audio can improve language fluency. Help readers engage with the content in two modalities... it's fun!