

Rainbow Readers

Title: Jackie Robinson

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

siblings

biography

manager

neighborhood

rookies

1. They live in a pretty neighborhood with lots of trees.
2. I'm glad I have siblings because being an only child would be lonely.
3. The experienced players should help teach the rookies.
4. She is doing research on a famous scientist in order to write his biography.
5. The manager of the store where he works won't let him take a vacation.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Jackie Robinson didn't have any siblings. T / F
2. African-Americans could not sit in the front of buses. T / F
3. Jackie kept the promise he made to Branch Rickey. T / F
4. Jackie hit a home run in his first game with the Dodgers. T / F
5. His teammate Pee Wee Reese became his friend. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. After leaving the army, Jackie joined the (African American League / Major League).
2. When he joined the Dodgers, he promised not to (fight / complain).
3. Jackie (often went / could not go) out for meals with his teammates.
4. Jackie won the (Most Valuable Player / Rookie of the Year) award in 1949.
5. The year that he left baseball, Jackie found out he had (diabetes / heart problems).

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which is NOT true about Jackie?

- a. He was born in Georgia.
- b. He grew up in California.
- c. His mother worked very hard.
- d. His father died when he was young.

2. Who convinced young Jackie to get different friends?

- a. His minister
- b. His mother
- c. His sister
- d. His manager

3. When other players said bad things about Jackie, his manager _____.

- a. fired them
- b. got mad at them
- c. agreed with them
- d. ignored them

4. Jackie's first job after retiring from baseball was with _____.

- a. a bank
- b. a foundation
- c. a coffee company
- d. the government

5. Jackie did all of the following EXCEPT

- a. Become vice president of Chock Full O' Nuts
- b. Help open the Freedom National Bank
- c. Start a construction company
- d. Work with several US presidents

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

role model	treated	succeeded	teammates	overcoming
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Jackie Robinson was born in 1919 to a very poor family. At age 26 he began playing baseball in the African American League. At that time, black people were not allowed to do most things with white people—not even play sports. But in 1946, the Brooklyn Dodgers asked Jackie to be the first African-American player in the Major League. He became a role model for black Americans and was named Rookie of the Year. However, many white people treated him badly and shouted mean things at him. This stopped when one of his white teammates put his arm around him to show they were friends. Jackie gained many fans because he was a great player. Because of him, more black players joined the league. After retiring from baseball, Jackie worked to improve black Americans' lives. He succeeded in many things, such as becoming the first black vice president of a big company. His strength in overcoming difficulties made him a hero to many people.