

February 2011

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Keep the Curtain Open

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING CHILDREN'S THEATER OF MADISON

If you're like most decision makers, you have many choices and limited resources to invest in out-of-classroom learning opportunities. That's why we are so very grateful that you have chosen CTM's production of *Most Valuable Player* to enrich the lives of the young people you brought to the theater today.

This guide is designed to help you delve more deeply into the history, language and social studies of the story and explore the world created by CTM's artistic staff. Topics explored in this guide are curriculum-based to help you make the most of your CTM experience.

You will find activities and discussion starters throughout your study guide. From the youngest audience members to grown-ups who are yet young-at-heart, there's an activity inside the guide to engage every imagination.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUTH FOR ATTENDANCE PLEASE READ!

On a few occasions in this play, the "n-word" is spoken by characters who are prejudiced against Jackie Robinson. The use of this word is intended to accurately represent the persecution that Mr. Robinson experienced, in keeping with the historical context. It is not meant to offend the audience in any way, nor is it meant to suggest to children (or adults) that using the word is permissible. CTM advises using the opportunity to discuss with your students how those types of words, and the unfair treatment that Mr. Robinson faced, are unacceptable in our society. (more on page 2)

Live theater differs from watching television or movies.

Performers can see and hear you. As an audience member you are a vital contributor to the performance experience that you and those around you will have. How you behave and how you react to the show will affect the artists' performances. That is why each performance is a unique experience, it will never be repeated exactly the same.

Talking to your neighbor, sending text messages, and other similar behaviors are distracting to the rest of the audience and to the artists. Please be respectful of the artists on stage performing for you by listening quietly. Of course, it is appropriate to react to what you are seeing – some things may make you laugh, gasp out loud, or you may be asked to respond by answering questions from the performers, singing along or clapping. Most of all, it is important to be present "in the moment" by being attentive and enjoy the performance.

And of course – show your enthusiastic appreciation by applause at the end of the performance! CTM thanks YOU for coming to the show!



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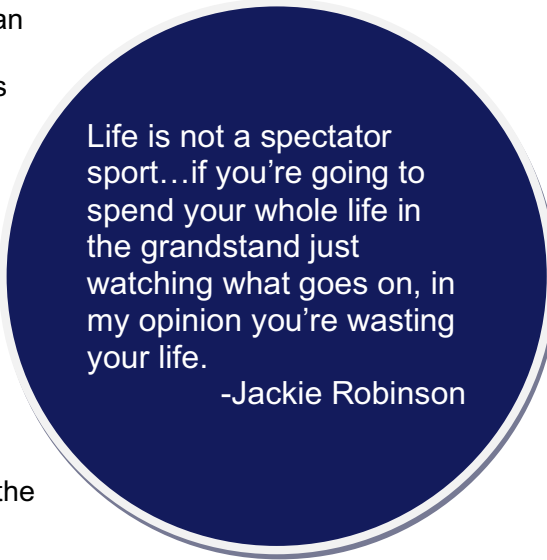
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MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: A SYNOPSIS

Most Valuable Player celebrates the life of Jackie Robinson, an extraordinary man who fights against prejudices prevalent in American society. The play takes the audience on a victorious and inspiring journey through a series of vignettes, which chronicle Jackie's life. Starting at a young age, Jackie displays a strong passion for baseball and a burning desire to overcome the odds.

Jackie's outstanding athletic ability and determination eventually pay off when he is noticed by Branch Rickey, the president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Mr. Rickey shares Jackie's frustrations about the segregation of baseball and of society and general. In an effort to break down racial barriers, Mr. Rickey integrates the Brooklyn Dodgers by hiring Jackie as the first black player in the history of Major League Baseball.

Practicing passive resistance to the jibes and threats of a hostile society, Jackie wins the respect of crowds and players alike. His incredible talent turns hasty boos into resounding cheers. However, Jackie learns that the road to success is full of twists and turns. Strengthened by a network of supportive friends and family, Jackie faces bitter confrontations as well as one of his greatest moments of triumph - being named Most Valuable Player in 1949. The unrelenting tenacity and visionary dreams of Jackie Robinson open the gates for tolerance and acceptance, offering hope for further positive change.



Life is not a spectator sport...if you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life.

-Jackie Robinson

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE PLAY

One cannot accurately observe Jackie Robinson's remarkable life without noting the adversity he experienced as a black man trying to be successful in a white world. He worked hard to make his way in the world of sports, only to be treated unfairly and denied opportunity, simply because of the color of his skin and the unjust laws of the time that discriminated against him and all persons of color. Part of this included the 'n-word,' one of the most hateful, ugly words ever to come out of the English language, being repeatedly thrown at him both in childhood and adulthood.

Most Valuable Player aims to powerfully and truthfully represent both the highs and lows of Jackie Robinson's life and career, presenting audiences with as complete a portrait as possible in order for students and teachers alike to fully comprehend and learn from Robinson's amazing success story. CTM does not condone the use of the n-word in any society, but we cannot honestly tell Robinson's story without including it in *Most Valuable Player*. Neglecting to address the abhorrent treatment he received, including being called that name, would be a terrible injustice to his life, the challenges he overcame, and the path that he paved for all black citizens to be given fair treatment and equal opportunities.

CTM believes that illustrating bigotry and injustice through the medium of the stage safely allows students to understand why it is unacceptable to treat people in such intolerable manners. It has been our experience in over thirty years of presenting historically accurate, powerfully performed stories of triumph over prejudice that these are unique learning opportunities that promote valuable discussion. We hope you will find value in this study guide and the resource listed on the final page.

ABOUT JACKIE ROBINSON

Jack Roosevelt Robinson (1919-1972)

Baseball player, civil rights activist.
Breaking the color barrier,
Jackie Robinson
became the first African-American
to play in baseball's major leagues.



The youngest of five children, "Jackie" Robinson was raised in relative poverty by a single mother in Cairo, Georgia. In high school and junior college, Robinson excelled as an athlete and played four sports: football, basketball, track, and baseball. In 1938, at the age of 19, Robinson was named the region's Most Valuable Player in baseball.

After serving in the Army from 1942-44, Robinson played baseball professionally. At the time, the sport was segregated. African-Americans and whites played in separate leagues. While playing in the Negro Leagues, Robinson was spotted by the vice president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who enlisted him to help integrate major league baseball.

From the beginning of his career with the Dodgers, Robinson's will was tested. Even some of his new teammates objected to having an African-American on their team. People in the crowds sometimes jeered at Robinson, and he and his family received threats.

But, Robinson succeeded in putting the prejudice and racial strife aside, and showed everyone what a talented player he was. In his first year (1947), he hit 12 home runs, led the National League in stolen bases, helped the Dodgers win the National League pennant, and was selected as Rookie of the Year. The next year, Robinson continued to wow fans and critics alike with impressive feats, eventually earning the 1949 National League's Most Valuable Player Award.

BASEBALL HIGHLIGHTS

1947 Rookie of the Year

1949 National League Most Valuable Player Award

1957 Retired from baseball after helping the Dodgers win six pennants and one World Series

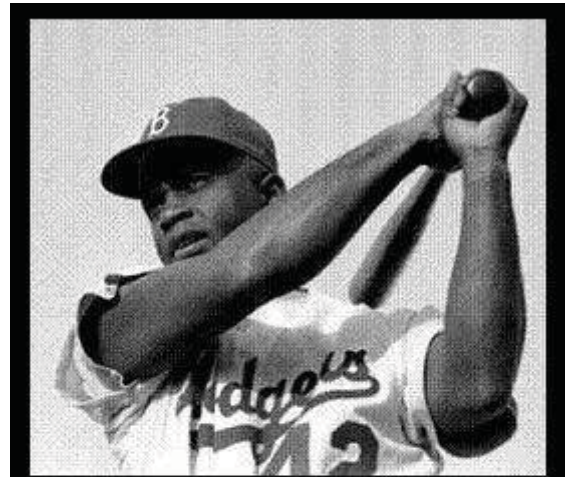
1962 Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame



HITTING HOME RUNS OFF OF THE DIAMOND!

Robinson's history-making achievements in baseball were only part of his extraordinary life and legacy. He made his gift for the game into a forum for all of America to engage in a conversation that would leave a lasting impact on almost every facet of our society. His outspoken leadership on issues of civil and human rights continued throughout his years as a corporate executive, civil servant, and major figure in national politics.

Jackie Robinson was also deeply concerned with the struggle for civil rights. Starting in 1957, he traveled extensively to raise funds for the NAACP and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was also a staunch supporter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Brith. These efforts led to close relationships with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other prominent leaders.



*There's not an American
in this country free until
every one of us is free.
~ Jackie Robinson*

ZingerBug.com

His concern with politics led him to influence leaders such as Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Nixon; Hubert Humphrey and Nelson Rockefeller. In 1964, he resigned from Chock Full O' Nuts to work full time on the campaign of Governor Rockefeller, who later appointed him as Special Assistant of Community Affairs. In 1968, he campaigned on behalf of Vice President Hubert Humphrey in his presidential bid.

Following his untimely death in 1972, his extraordinary commitment to youth was recognized when his wife Rachel founded the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF). The Jackie Robinson Foundation honors Jackie's memory by providing educational opportunities to young people who otherwise couldn't afford to attend the college of their choice. The cornerstone of the program is its leadership development and mentoring components. Nearly 1200 young people have called themselves Jackie Robinson Scholars and in its nearly four decades, almost all of the Scholars have realized their dream of a college education.



On the same day that the Baseball Writer's Association named Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers as the Most Valuable Player in the National League for 1949, his son, Jackie, Jr., celebrated his third birthday. Jackie, Jr., takes a powerful blow at the candles on his birthday cake, as his father and mother look on. November 18th is a big day for the little family at their home in St. Albans, N.Y., and little Jackie has a good deal to live up to.

RACIAL SEGREGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

If you are reading this guide online, please click on any of the vocabulary words below to hear them pronounced and used in a sentence.

civil rights

Definition: The nonpolitical rights of a citizen; the rights of personal liberty guaranteed to U.S. citizens by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution and by acts of Congress.

Context: The civil rights movement was an effort to establish citizenship rights for blacks—rights that whites took for granted, such as voting and freely using public facilities.

discrimination

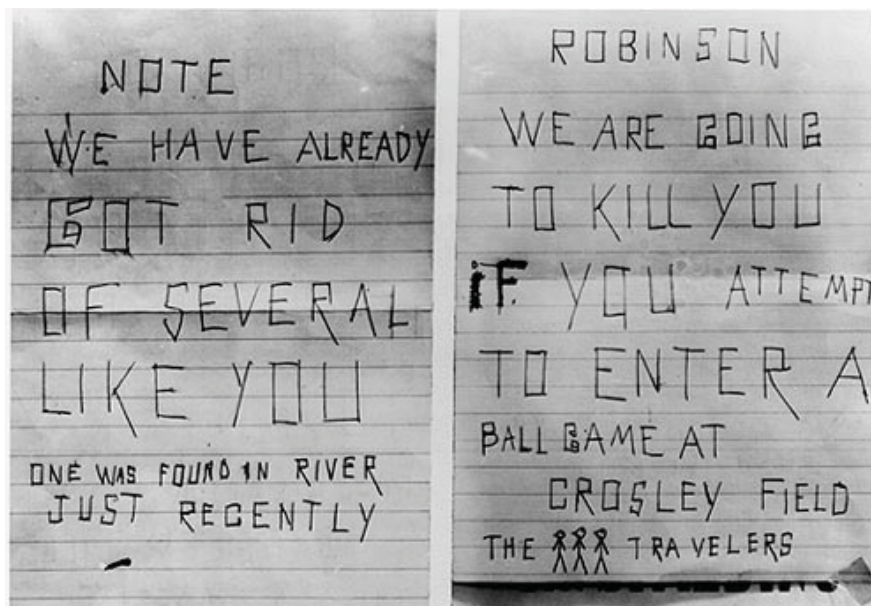
Definition: The act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually; prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment.

Context: The 15th Amendment prohibited racial discrimination in voting.

segregation

Definition: The separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a

Racial segregation may apply to activities such as eating in a restaurant, drinking from a water fountain, attending school or the purchase or rental of a home.



An example of hate mail received by Jackie Robinson on May 20, 1951

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IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN THE LIFE OF JACKIE ROBINSON

On March 18, 1942, Jackie Robinson and Nate Moreland, two black players, ask the Chicago White Sox for a tryout. Manager Jimmy Dykes grants both players a workout, but neither will make the Sox' roster.

On April 16, 1945, Jackie Robinson and two other black players, Sam Jethroe and Marvin Williams, participate in a Boston Red Sox tryout at Fenway Park. The Red Sox elect to sign none of the three. Robinson and Jethroe will eventually become stars in the major leagues.

On October 30, 1945, Brooklyn Dodgers' executive Branch Rickey signs Jackie Robinson, an infielder with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues, to a minor league contract. Robinson will play the entire 1946 season with the Montreal Royals of the International League before earning a promotion to Brooklyn in 1947.

On March 17, 1946, Jackie Robinson makes his minor league debut in an exhibition game for the Montreal Royals. Robinson's inaugural appearance for the Royals, the top affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers takes place at Daytona Beach, Florida. A crowd of 3,100 attends the game at City Island Park, which will be renamed Jackie Robinson Stadium in 1990.

On April 18, 1946, Jackie Robinson makes his minor league debut for the Montreal Royals, the International League affiliate of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson collects a home run and three singles in his debut, on his way to the International League title. In 1946, Jackie Robinson married Rachel Isum, a nursing student at UCLA. Together they had 3 children, Jackie, Jr. Sharon and David.

On April 10, 1947, Jackie Robinson becomes the first black player to sign a major league contract in the 20th century. Robinson signs with Brooklyn Dodgers, whose general

manager, Branch Rickey, had personally recruited Robinson from the Negro Leagues.

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson makes his major league debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black player to play major league baseball in the modern era. Robinson goes 0-for-3 against the Boston Braves, but flawlessly handles 11 chances at first base.

On June 24, 1947, Jackie Robinson steals home against the Pittsburgh Pirates, helping the Brooklyn Dodgers to a 4-2 win. The theft marks the first of 19 steals of home by Robinson during his major league career.

On July 12, 1949, Jackie Robinson makes his All-Star game debut for the National League, marking the first time that a black player participates in a mid-summer classic. Robinson is joined by fellow African Americans; Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe on the National League team and Larry Doby on the American League roster.

On April 23, 1954, Jackie Robinson steals home on the front end of a rare triple steal, helping the Dodgers to a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

On September 28, 1955, Jackie Robinson steals home in Game One of the World Series, but the Brooklyn Dodgers lose to the New York Yankees, 6-5. Robinson's eighth inning steal of home had brought the Dodgers within one run. The Dodgers eventually won the series in seven games earning the Dodgers their first World Championship.

On January 15, 1957, Jackie Robinson announces his retirement, voiding a recent trade to the rival New York Giants. In December, the Dodgers had dealt Robinson to the Giants for pitcher Dick Littlefield and \$35,000. Giants' vice president Charles Fenney had offered Robinson a \$60,000 contract for the 1957 season, in the hope that

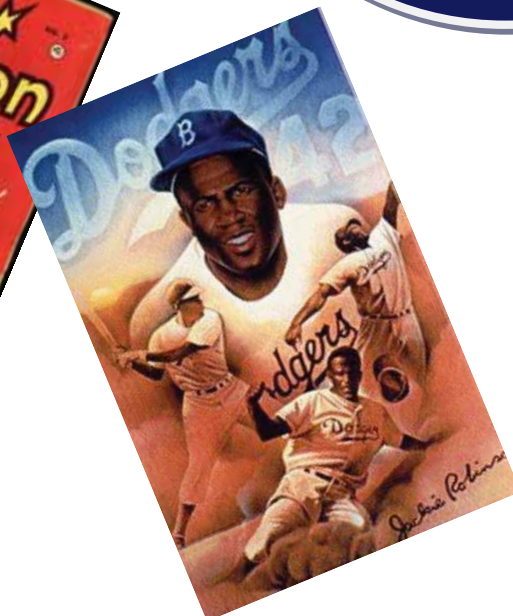
Robinson would agree to report to the Giants and help boost sagging attendance at the Polo Grounds. Robinson, citing problems with his legs, decides to call it quits.

On January 23, 1962, the Baseball Writers Association of America elects Jackie Robinson to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Robinson, who is selected along with Bob Feller, becomes the first African-American to gain election to the Hall.

On July 23, 1962, Jackie Robinson is one of

four men inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Robinson is joined by; Bob Feller, Bill McKechnie, and Edd Roush. On July 14, 1987, the Baseball Writers Association of America rename the Rookie of the Year Award the "Jackie Robinson Award." In 1947, Robinson won the first ever Rookie of the Year award.

On April 15, 1997, Commissioner Allan (Bud) H. Selig announces during a ceremony at Shea Stadium in New York City that Major League Baseball is retiring Jackie Robinson's number 42 in perpetuity. Robinson is the only player to be so honored in any sport.



He led America by example. He reminded our people of what was right and he reminded them of what was wrong. I think it can be safely said today that Jackie Robinson made the United States a better nation.

-American League President Gene Budig

FROM PAGE TO STAGE WHO, WHAT & WHERE

Cast - the people who perform in a show. The people you see on stage **audition** (an event that is held during which time people may be asked to read from scripts, perform material they have memorized on their own, and/or engage in acting games in front of the director who will then choose who will play which character during the actual performance of the play). After a play has been **cast** (used here as a verb, meaning the action taken by the director in making choices), the cast will rehearse for several weeks in the day or evenings. **Rehearsal** is how theater people refer to "practice." **Have you ever been in a play? How do you think the cast felt today while they were performing this story?**

Choreographer - the person who creates dances and arranges movements for a musical. **How does movement help to tell the story or let you know something about a character? What kinds of dances are used in this show? Try some of the dances on your own!**

Company - the cast and crew of a show and any other staff who work on the show. It has been said that being part of the making of a play or musical is like a "team sport" or a "big family." Everyone has a job to do and by working hard doing something fun and rewarding, it's only natural to come together as a single unit, team or group. Company is another way of describing everyone without whom this play wouldn't happen. **Have you ever been part of a group like this? How does it feel to work together with people to create or accomplish something you can share with others?** "Company" is also a word commonly used to describe a core group of people that regularly work with a certain theater company. CTM holds auditions for each different show during our season. Even though each show is cast (used here as a *verb*, meaning how the director chooses actors to play certain roles or parts) from auditions, many of the same actors will be seen on CTM's stage each season.



Sometimes a theater will have an "acting company," which is a group of actors who will DEFINITELY be seen on stage during on or more show during a season. **Have you ever seen one of the actors on stage in a different CTM production?**

Costume Designer - the person in charge of the costumes for a show, costumes may be "built" (make from scratch) or "pulled" (chosen from costumes already made). Most CTM shows are costumed by a combination of both. **How did the costumes help you to understand the story?**

Crew - all the people who work together on a show except for the cast. The crew is very important before and during a show! Among other things, the crew makes sure that people and things are where they need to be when they need to be there. **After seeing *Most Valuable Player*, what do you think happened because of the crew? How many people were in the crew?**



Director - the person who provides the vision of how a show should be presented, who works with the actors on their roles, develops the blocking, and is in charge of the rehearsals

Ensemble - a group of actors, singers or dancers who perform together on the stage. In *Most Valuable Player*, as in many other plays and musicals, the actors in the Ensemble play many different parts. **Did you notice anyone who played more than one part?**

What did they do to create the other role?

Lighting Designer - the person who designs the lighting for a show and works with the director to get desired effects. Lighting is a very important element because it helps to tell the story, move the action, and create mood. **How does the lighting in *Most Valuable Player* do these things?**



Prop Mistress/Master - the person in charge of all the props and who usually works with them during a show. Everything that an actor touches or uses (that are not worn like a costume) are considered props. Some props are made from scratch, others are found in CTM's warehouse. We have thousands of props stored on shelves and in drawers. **What are some of the props in *Most Valuable Player*? What do you think was made JUST for this show?**

Set Designer - the person who designs the sets for a show...in smaller theaters this person also builds the sets. The set designer, like other designers, works very closely with the director before rehearsals begin. The director will need to understand how the set works, and what kind of surfaces the actors will “play upon” before rehearsals begin. **Why do you think the set designer chose to create the locations in this way?**

Sound Designer - the person who designs the sound direction for the show. Each of the sounds you hear that are not created by people on stage were decided, found or made, and recorded by the sound designer. **Listen closely...what sounds do you hear that are part of the sound design?**



Stage Manager - the person who runs the show from opening curtain to closing curtain and is in charge of everything on the stage and in the back of the stage. **Who is the stage manager in your class? How about in your home?**



Control Booth - the place in a theater from which all the sound and lights are controlled. The Stage Manager sits in this room with headphones on, giving directions to people in the booth and back stage throughout the show. He/she is not communicating with the actors, however. If you turn around you will see the control booth at the back of the theater. **Did you find the control booth? Who or what did you see?**

House - used to describe the audience and where the audience sits. You will both sit in the house and be the house while you are watching the play. Sometimes actors will say to one another “great house!” because when audiences are attentive and polite. **What do you think the actors said about the house after the performance you attended? If you liked today’s show, please tell your friends and family so that the actors have a full HOUSE for other performances of this show!**

Offstage (Backstage) - the area of the stage which the audience cannot see. This is a very busy place during the play. It is important for everyone to be very quiet and focused. Trained or experienced actors will not try to communicate with the audience when they are backstage, like peeking out of the curtains. **Did you see actors or stage crew offstage during the show? If so, what were they doing?**



CTM productions feature children and adults, novices and professionals working side-by-side.. Young people acquire a sense of accomplishment, increased confidence, and a greater sense of community.

Activity

Choose a familiar book to adapt into a live play. Choose a director, designers, actors and musicians to tell the story. Don't forget your audience! Theater requires an audience.

Set - the setting of the stage for each act and all the physical things that are used to change the stage for the performance. CTM builds the set from new and used materials in an enormous warehouse in Madison. It takes many artists and builders to construct, paint, and prepare each set. Get this: a few days before the first performance of each different play, the technical crew takes apart the set at the warehouse, drives across town with it in a big truck, and then puts all of the pieces back together on the stage in the theater. This is accomplished in a few hours or a day. The actors will have a few days or nights to rehearse on the set before you see the play. **How would YOU have made the set for this play? What would you have done differently?**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the term “role model” with the class.
 - ☆ What does it mean to be a role model?
 - ☆ Why do you think Jackie Robinson makes a good one?
 - ☆ Why do so many sports figures have an impact on American society?
 - ☆ Who are some other sports figures that are considered positive role models?
 - ☆ Can you think of other people who make good role models, both famous and not?
2. Branch Rickey challenges Jackie *not* to fight back against people who antagonize him.
 - ☆ Why does it sometimes take more courage not to fight back?
 - ☆ Did this technique work for Jackie?
 - ☆ What influenced him to eventually alter his approach to dealing with people who were against him?
3. Discuss the words “prejudice”, “discrimination”, and “boycott” with the class.
 - ☆ What do these words mean?
 - ☆ Why do you think people are prejudiced?
 - ☆ Do you think people can change?
4. When the Dodgers play the St. Louis Cardinals in the playoffs, some of the players threaten to boycott Jackie’s presence in the League.
 - ☆ What are some other, more well-known boycotts that are significant in the history of civil rights in America?
5. Although Jackie Robinson is one of the most revered players in baseball history, and is surrounded by people who believe in him, he still struggles with insecurity and self-doubt. He is proof that even the strongest people can still feel unsure of themselves sometimes. Have the class share examples of times when they felt nervous or insecure like Jackie, and how they dealt with it.

DRAMATIC ARTS

1. A play, movie, book, or television special that tells the story of a person’s life, or a part of their life, is called a “biography.” The play *Most Valuable Player* is a biography of the life of Jackie Robinson.
 - ☆ Why does Jackie Robinson make a good subject for a biography?
 - ☆ What other biographies have you seen or read?
2. *Most Valuable Player* is a unique production. It uses projected images and creative staging to highlight moments in Jackie’s life and re-create some of his games.
 - ☆ What was your overall opinion of these techniques?
 - ☆ Were they effective or ineffective in communicating the story to you? Why or why not?

LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING

1. Before seeing the play, read a book about Jackie Robinson. After seeing the play, compare it and contrast it to the book.
 - ☆ What events did the book address that the play did not, and vice versa?
 - ☆ Write a short critique outlining your observations.
 - ☆ Which did you prefer as a way of telling Jackie's story--the book or the play?
2. What other lives do you think would make interesting subjects for a biography? Write a biography of a famous person other than Jackie Robinson. This person can be living or dead. Choose your favorite author, athlete, scientist, politician, actor, musician, or historical figure-- anyone whose life you find interesting!
3. Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter and you are covering Jackie Robinson in the National League playoffs between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals in 1947. Write an article about the games, based on what you saw onstage in *Most Valuable Player*.
4. One of the ways that Jackie copes with his stress is to write letters to his mother and loved ones. It helps him stay in touch when he can't be with them, and serves as a way for him to express his feelings. Write a letter to one of the characters in the play and describe to them how you felt about the play, and the thoughts that went through your mind as you watched it.

MATHEMATICS

1. As in many sports, numbers are used in the game of baseball to keep score and maintain statistical information about the teams and individual players. A person who keeps track of statistics (or "stats" for short) is called a "statistician." In baseball, there are three types of statistics: offensive stats, defensive stats, and pitching stats. Go to a baseball website, such as www.baseball-almanac.com to find out how to calculate the various statistics.
2. Think about the different shapes, lines, and angles that are involved in baseball. A diamond and a circle are just two of the forms you will see if you watch a baseball game! Look for these and other geometric forms as you watch *Most Valuable Player*.

JACK ROOSEVELT ROBINSON outfield **BROOKLYN DODGERS**
HT. 5' 11 1/2" Weight 205 Bats Right Throws Right
Home: St. Albans, N. Y. Born: January 31, 1919

Playing both the Infield and Outfield, Jackie hit over .300 for the 5th straight year. With the Dodgers in '47 he won the N.L. Rookie-of-the-Year and was the Most Valuable Player in '49, leading the league with a .342 BA. Jackie set the N.L. mark for Fielding at 2nd Base with .992 and Double Plays (137) in '51.

MAJOR LEAGUE BATTING RECORD											FIELDING RECORD			
Year	Games	At Bat	Runs	Hits	Double	Triple	H.R.	R.R.I.	B. Avg.	P. P.	Assists	Errors	P. Avg.	
Year	136	484	108	150	34	7	12	30	.329	229	125	6	.984	
Life	1036	3817	772	1218	230	46	194	336	.318	2072	728	61	.984	

INSIDE BASEBALL

Jack is well known as one of baseball's top performers. He is also known as the head of the National Broadcasting Co.'s Community activities, where he helps youngsters of all creeds.

HISTORY

1. Before seeing the play, familiarize students with the history of racial inequality in this country, starting with the institution of slavery, through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-60s, up to the lingering racial prejudices in our country and well as many others in the world today.

2. For decades, baseball has been considered “America’s Past-time.”

How did baseball start? Do a research project on the history of the game.

- ☆ Who invented baseball?
- ☆ When was it first played professionally?
- ☆ Discuss the role that baseball has played in American culture over the years, and the influence it continues to have today.
- ☆ How has baseball been incorporated into movies, television, music, literature, and advertising?

3. The characters in “Most Valuable Player” are based on real people. Look up photographs and biographical information about some of the major characters in the play:

- ☆ Jackie Robinson
- ☆ Branch Rickey
- ☆ Pee Wee Reese
- ☆ Leo Durocher

4. Jackie Robinson was not the only person in history to suffer from persecution and ridicule by his society. Jackie’s initial response is not to respond at all--he just keeps playing the game. This approach is called “nonviolence” or “passive resistance.”

Discuss some other famous people who used a nonviolent approach to dealing with adversity:

- ☆ Frederick Douglass
- ☆ Martin Luther King
- ☆ Jr., Nelson Mandela
- ☆ Cesar Chavez
- ☆ Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- ☆ Susan B. Anthony
- ☆ Henry David Thoreau
- ☆ Mahatma Gandhi

ADDITIONAL WRITE TO CTM!

After watching the play, write about it. Tell what you liked or disliked about the story, the characters, costumes, set, or anything else you observed. Support your thoughts with examples and reasons. (*Teacher’s comments are appreciated!*)

Mail to:

**CTM (Attention: Jane)
228 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703**

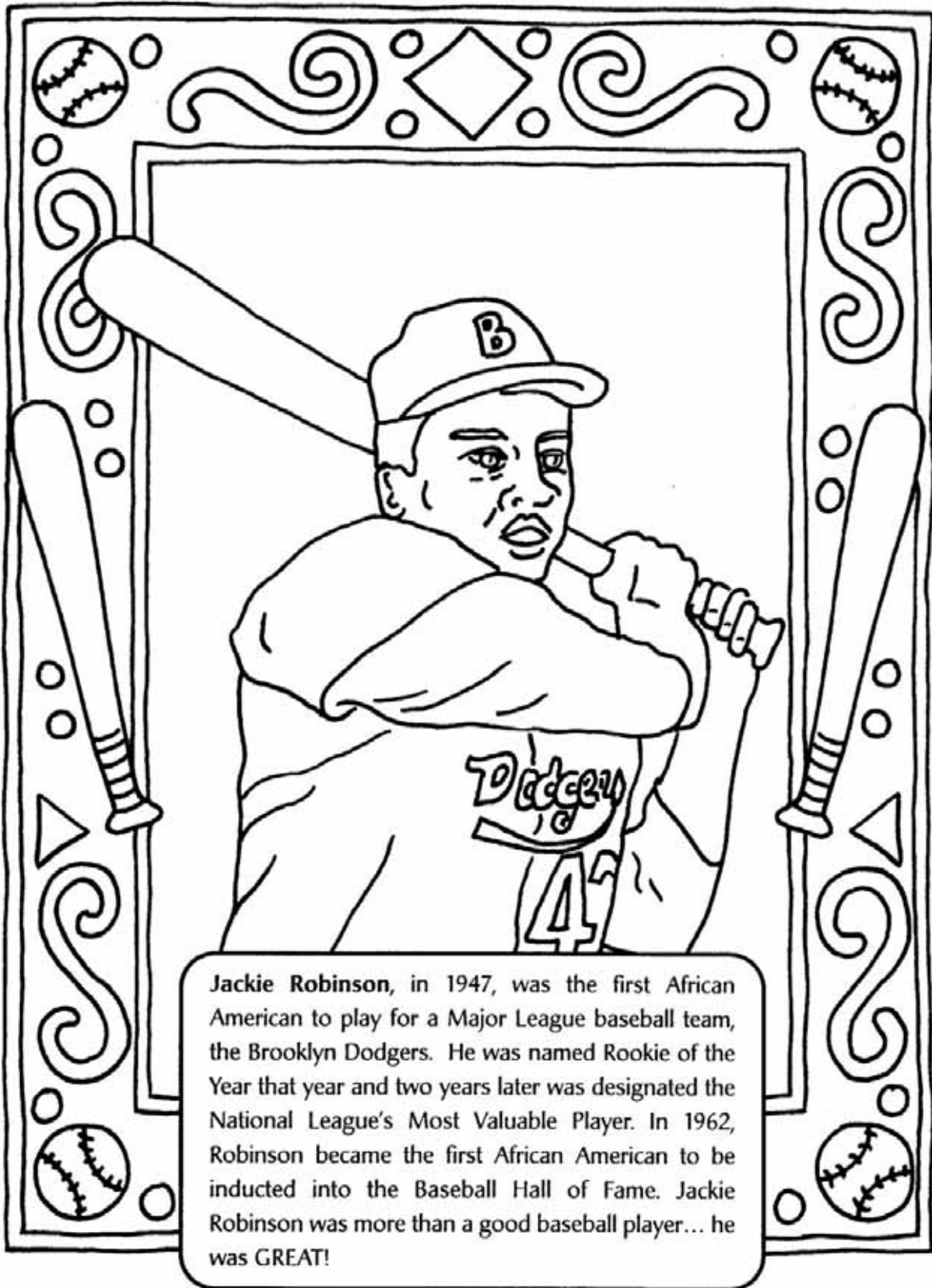
Famous African Americans: Using a Grid

Learn interesting facts about some famous African Americans by using a grid to decode the names. Write the letter on the line that corresponds to each set of coordinates. For example, if you are given the coordinates (1,5), you would write the letter "S." (The horizontal coordinate is the first number in the pair and the vertical coordinate is the second number.)

5	S	A	H	O	P	I
4	I	W	B	L	F	E
3	Q	C	N	E	U	A
2	D	V	J	T	Y	O
1	K	Z	R	G	M	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6

- _____ is famous
(3,5) (2,5) (3,1) (3,1) (6,5) (6,4) (4,2) (4,2) (5,3) (3,4) (5,1) (6,3) (3,3)
for freeing more than 300 slaves using the Underground Railroad.
- _____ refused to give up her bus
(3,1) (4,5) (1,5) (2,5) (5,5) (6,3) (3,1) (1,1) (1,5)
seat to a white person.
- _____ was an important spy for the United States during the Revolutionary War.
(3,2) (2,5) (5,1) (4,3) (1,5) (2,5) (3,1) (5,1) (6,5) (1,5) (4,2) (6,4) (2,5) (1,2)
- _____ is a famous
(5,1) (2,5) (5,2) (2,5) (6,3) (3,3) (4,1) (6,4) (4,4) (4,5) (5,3)
performer, writer, and director.
- _____ owns her
(4,5) (5,5) (3,1) (2,5) (3,5) (2,4) (6,5) (3,3) (5,4) (3,1) (4,3) (5,2)
own television studio.
- _____ was the first
(3,2) (4,3) (1,5) (1,5) (4,3) (3,2) (2,5) (2,3) (1,1) (1,5) (6,2) (3,3)
African-American man to run for president.
- _____ led the fight for civil rights during the 1960's
(5,1) (2,5) (3,1) (4,2) (6,5) (3,3) (4,4) (5,3) (4,2) (3,5) (6,4) (3,1)
(1,1) (1,4) (3,3) (4,1) (3,2) (3,1)
and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1963.
- _____ was born a slave and escaped. She fought against slavery and for women's voting rights.
(1,5) (4,5) (3,2) (4,5) (5,3) (3,1) (3,3) (4,3) (3,1) (4,2) (3,1) (5,3) (4,2) (3,5)
- _____ started a school to train African-American teachers, farmers,
(3,4) (4,5) (4,5) (1,1) (4,3) (3,1) (4,2) (2,4) (2,5) (1,5) (3,5) (6,5) (3,3) (4,1)
(4,2) (6,2) (3,3)
brick makers, and carpenters.
- _____ was the first African American to play major league baseball. He joined the Brooklyn
(3,2) (2,5) (2,3) (1,1) (6,5) (4,3) (3,1) (6,2) (3,4) (6,5) (3,3) (1,5) (4,5) (3,3)
Dodgers in 1947.

Name _____



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Jackie Robinson

CTM'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

CTM's dug-out is filled with man MVPs! Some of the best and brightest players can be found in CTM's business office, in the community, in stores, businesses and in government buildings throughout Dane County.

CTM Staff: CTM employs nearly a dozen people who work in various positions all year. Some of the jobs that people do include answering your questions on the phone, making sure your teachers and parents know about the shows and classes at CTM, and finding the right people to do all of the jobs on the last two pages and more!

CTM Board of Directors: Twenty grown ups from all walks of life volunteer their time to help CTM in lots of important ways. They spend their time and resources with us because they believe in CTM's ability to do important things in the community.

Ticket Buyers: By coming to today's show, your teacher, principal or parent organization helped to make *Most Valuable Player* possible. YOU are

Acting is make-believe. However, theater rent, costumes, posters, wood and paint aren't pretend. Putting on a show costs a lot of money. CTM pays for a show like *Most Valuable Player* by charging money for tickets. Please be sure to thank the grownups that paid for your ticket today. We are so grateful that you could be here. Ticket sales aren't the only way that CTM pays for productions like *Most Valuable Player*.

It takes



to bring Jackie Robinson's story come to life for you today.

Sponsors & Donors: Through the year, people generously give gifts of money to CTM because they want to make sure that we can continue offering fun and educational experiences like this to you! Sometimes people wish to give these gifts privately and you won't see their names. When you do see names of people, companies and restaurants when you're looking at CTM posters or programs, it means these people helped CTM pay for the show you're watching. Just a few of the people who helped to make today's show possible are:

Mr. Eliot Butler
Sponsor of Tickets for
Big Brother/Big Sisters



This project is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.

-Jackie Robinson

Suggested Reading

Adler, David A. *Jackie Robinson: He Was the First*. New York: Holiday House, 1989. 48p. illus. Alvarez, Mark. *The Official Baseball Hall of Fame Story of Jackie Robinson*. New York: Little, Simon, 1990. 96p. illus.

Brandt, Keith. *Jackie Robinson: A Life of Courage*. Illustrated by Marcy Ramsey. Mahwah, NJ: Troll Associates, 1992. 48p. Illus.

Cohen, Barbara. *Thank You, Jackie Robinson*. Fiction. New York: Lothrop, 1988. Davidson, Margaret. *The Story of Jackie Robinson: Bravest Man in Baseball*. New York: Dell, 1988. 92p.

Denenberg, Barry. *Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson*. New York: Scholastic Books, 1990. 117p.

Epstein, Samuel, and Beryl Epstein. *Jackie Robinson: Baseball's Gallant Fighter*. Champaign, IL: Garrard, 1974. 96p. illus.

Erskine, Carl, *What I Learned from Jackie Robinson*. New York, McGraw Hill, 2005, 224p. Falkner, David, *Great Time Coming: The Life Of Jackie Robinson From Baseball to Birmingham*, New York, Touchstone, 1995, 384p.

Farr, Naunerle C. *Babe Ruth; Jackie Robinson*. West Haven, CT: Pendulum Press, 1979. 63p.illus. Frommer, Harvey. *Jackie Robinson*. New York: Watts, 1984 117p.

Golenbock, Peter. *Teammates*. Illustrated by Paul Bacon. San Diego: Gulliver Books, 1990. 30p. illus. (About Robinson and Pee Wee Reese)

Grabowski, Jack F. *Baseball Legends: Jackie Robinson*. Introduction by Jim Murray. New York: Chelsea House, 1991. 64p. Illus.

Greene, Carol. *Jackie Robinson: Baseball's First Black Major Leaguer*. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1990. 47p.

Johnson, Spencer, M.D. *The Value of Courage: The Story of Jackie Robinson*. Illustrated by Pileggi. San Diego ValueTales, 1977. 64p. illus.

CTM supports teachers and families in the joy of learning through live theater experiences and study.

Keep the curtain open!

This Study Guide was prepared by for CTM by Christina Martin-Wright with help from the following resources:

Overture Center for the Arts

<http://www.overturecenter.com/community/overture-onstage/educators-resource-guides>

The Official Jackie Robinson Website

www.jackierobinson.com

The Jackie Robinson Foundation

www.jackierobinson.org

California Theater Center

[www.ctcinc.org/.../Study.../MOST VALUABLE PLAYER Guide.pdfNational](http://www.ctcinc.org/.../Study.../MOST_VALUABLE_PLAYER_Guide.pdfNational)

Baseball Hall of Fame

www.baseballhalloffame.org

The Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

To book your next school show, sponsor or underwrite tickets: Jane@ctmtheater.org

To book group tickets: Kathy@ctmtheater.org



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