

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson was a great man. If you don't know, now you know... or better yet, you're about to find out.

There once was a man named Jackie,

Born in 1919, 31 of January.

The place was Cairo, Georgia.

This was not long after slavery,

Segregation still a thing, black people treated unfairly.

Jim Crow—they call it Jim Crow laws—say separate but equal.

Laws separating people, segregation was legal.

Here's how it goes if you're black: white restaurant, can't go,

White school, can't go, White library or hotel or hospital, no, no.

Young Jackie was good at sports, man.

I'm talking about any sport, like name a sport, man:

Football and basketball, baseball and track.

First UCLA student to letter in all four in fact.

Fast forward: 1944, young Jackie grown up now.

He want to play in the major leagues, but at the time, it was not allowed.

In baseball, black players relegated to the Negro leagues.

Baseball was segregated, like Jim Crow, pshh please.

But that would soon change. Branch Rickey,

Manager of the all-white Brooklyn Dodgers, did not feel the same.

Impressed by his game, more importantly, young Jackie's upright character.

Knew that Jackie was the right man to break the color barrier.

Jackie Robinson,

Jackie Robinson,

Jackie, number 42,

All praises due, Jackie Robinson, salute to you.

The first black man in the major leagues,

I thought this was America, land of the free.

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All praises due, Jackie Robinson, salute to you.

The first black man in the major leagues:

1947, April 15.

April 15, 1947:

First game as a Brooklyn Dodger, that's the day he entered

Into the major leagues. The place was Ebbets Field.

A great day, but bigotry ain't got no chill.

Jackie dealt with harassment. Some fans booed him from the stands, man.

Racial slurs, all kind of words, just because he was a black man.

Umpires, opposing players, even players on his own team

Gave your man Jackie Robinson a hard time. Man, that's so mean.

Still, in all he persevered; first year, won rookie of the year.

No fear, stayed cool, stayed calm, kept it on the field.

He played 10 years. Six years he was all-star.

Played in six World Series, even won the National League MVP Award.

1957, he retired from the game.

1962, the first African American inducted into the Hall of Fame.

After his playing days, he wasn't playing no games,

Kept fighting for civil rights until his final days.

He was on the board of the NAACP,

A true champion, like Muhammad Ali.

In '97, the 50th anniversary of his debut,

Major League Baseball retired Jackie's number 42.

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