

YHBA Novel Resource



Title: Dad, Jackie, and Me

Author: Myron Uhlberg

Illustrator: Colin Bootman

Copyright date: 2005

Publisher: Peachtree, Atlanta

Interest Level and Reading Level: IL K-2, RL 1.5

About the Author:

Myron Uhlberg is the author of FLYING OVER BROOKLYN; LEMUEL THE FOOL; THE PRINTER; and DAD, JACKIE, AND ME. The first-born son of deaf parents, he was taught a love of reading, a passion he has carried with him throughout his life. To Uhlberg, writing is a way to relive his childhood, "transmuting childhood events into magical imaginary experiences." He hopes to help children discover "the magic of words" as his parents did years ago. Uhlberg lives in Santa Monica, California.

About the Illustrator:

Colin Bootman has illustrated numerous books, several of which have been named Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year. ALMOST TO FREEDOM was a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book and DAD, JACKIE, AND ME received the 2006 Schnieder Family Book Award given to books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience. His illustrations have appeared in dozens of children's books, and many of his fine art illustrations have been exhibited in art shows or are now part of private collections. He was born in Trinidad and spent the first seven years of his life there. Bootman currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Art Medium Used: Painterly illustrations with watercolors convey the book's serious tone through the often grave expressions of the characters and the generally dark palette of colors. Illustrations created in watercolor on Arches Aquarelle 100% rag paper. Scrapbook-page end pages courtesy of Margot Hayward from her private collection.

Annotation: It is the summer of 1947 and a highly charged baseball season is underway in New York. Jackie Robinson is the new first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers--and the first black player in Major League Baseball. A young boy shares the excitement of Robinson's rookie season with his deaf father.

Each day he listens eagerly to the Brooklyn Dodgers games on the radio. When his father arrives home from work, the boy uses sign language to tell him about the Dodgers. His father begins to keep a scrapbook, clipping photos and articles about Jackie. Finally one day the father delivers some big news: they are going to Ebbets Field to watch Jackie play in person!

Author Myron Uhlberg offers a nostalgic look back at 1947, and pays tribute to Jackie Robinson, the legendary athlete and hero who brought a father and son--and an entire New York community--together for one magical summer. Illustrator Colin Bootman's realistic, full-color illustrations capture the details of the period and the excitement of an entire city as Robinson helps the Dodgers win the long-awaited pennant.

Genre: Historical Fiction

Point of View: The story was told from the boy's perspective in first person

Theme: Accepting differences, Discrimination/prejudice, Family traditions, Overcoming obstacles

Conflict: There is a conflict between the racism of the times and a boy's own morals. Through the story we find a commonality between the prejudice of race and of being deaf.

Conflict Resolution: The boy and his father refuse to allow the skin color of Jackie Robinson ruin their love for their beloved Brooklyn Dodgers. They followed the Dodgers and Jackie Robinson throughout the season and celebrated his accomplishments. The boy learns that he and Jackie Robinson face many of the same issues of prejudice.

Characters: Father and son

Setting: The summer of 1947 in Brooklyn New York

Booktalk: Set in the summer of 1947 in New York City, this story of a young boy and his hearing-impaired father shows how their love of baseball—and their admiration for the newest player for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Jackie Robinson—brings them closer together. As

their shared interest in the great American pastime helps to deepen the relationship between father and son, it also deepens their understanding and acceptance of the differences between people. The young boy, once embarrassed by his deaf father, learns to appreciate and accept him for who he is and what he can do, just as the nation learns to embrace the skills and differences of an inspiring baseball player, Jackie Robinson.

Language: The language is easily understood. Most words the students will be familiar with and picture clues assist with recognition.

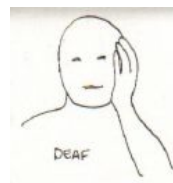


Negro: an African American; a black person

major league baseball: an organization for adult baseball players who play baseball as job and get paid for playing baseball



subway: similar to an electric train that runs underground to transport people from one location to another.



deaf: unable to hear

sign language: a way to communicate with a person who cannot hear using your hands



RBI: a run batted in during a baseball game

Indiana Academic Standards met by novel content:

- **MATH**
No direct standards found, but could easily create extensions to include Math standards.
- **Science**
K.5.1 Use shapes — such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles — to describe different objects.
2.4.8 Give examples of different roles people have in families and communities.
3.1.5 Demonstrate the ability to work cooperatively while respecting the ideas of others and communicating one's own conclusions about findings.
- **Social**
K.1.3 Listen to and retell stories about people in the past who showed honesty, courage, and responsibility.
1.1.1 Compare the way individuals in the community lived in the past with the way they live in the present.
2.2.4 Describe how people of different ages, cultural backgrounds and traditions contribute to the community and how all citizens can respect these differences.
3.2.2 Identify fundamental democratic principles and ideals.
- **Language Arts**
K.3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events in a story.
1.2.6 Draw conclusions or confirm predictions about what will happen next in a text by identifying key words
2.2.6 Recognize cause-and-effect relationships in a text.
3.1.6 Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.

Anticipation Statements:

Before Reading... Write Agree or Disagree

When people are different from me it's okay to treat them differently

People who are different from me don't have the same feelings as me

People who are different from me scare me

I don't like to talk or be friends with people who are different from me

After Reading... Write Agree or Disagree

When people are different from me it's okay to treat them differently

People who are different from me don't have the same feelings as me

People who are different from me scare me

I don't like to talk or be friends with people who are different from me

Discussion Questions:

Pre:

Have you ever played baseball or softball?

Have you ever been to a professional baseball game?

Where?

During:

Why was the dad saying "AH-HEE, AH-GHEE, AH-GHEE"? p.14

Why do you think that the other team hurt Jackie Robinson? P. 19

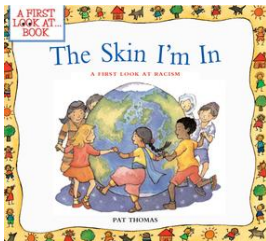
Do you think they meant to hurt him? P. 19

Post:

How do you think the boy felt at the end of the baseball season?

Do you think people treated Jackie Robinson fairly?

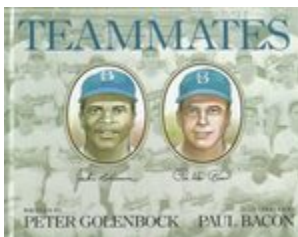
If you like Dad, Jackie and Me, you'll love....



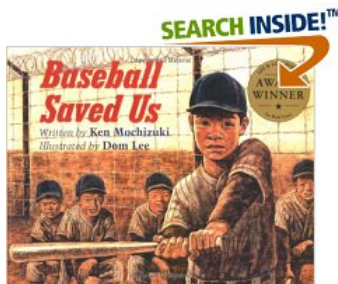
- THE SKIN I'M IN: A FIRST LOOK AT RACISM by Pat Thomas



- I CAN'T ALWAYS HEAR YOU by Joy Zelonky



- TEAMMATES by Peter Golenbock



- BASEBALL SAVED US by Ken Mochizuki

Across the Curriculum Connections: I believe that this book offers many opportunities for extension activities according to your classroom interest.

- **Picture Predictions:** Have students reflect on the picture predictions they made about the text before they read and while they were reading. Have them respond either orally or through writing about their predictions.

Discussion Questions: Were their predictions correct? Did the illustrations lead them to think one way but the text gave them different ideas? What changed in their predictions while they were reading? What do they think will happen to the characters now that the book is finished? Ask them to make predictions about the themes in the book such as discrimination. Will it continue to trouble Jackie Robinson in baseball? After students share their thoughts, ask them to write a sequel to the story, expanding on their predictions.

Supplies: paper, writing tools, chart paper

This can be done whole group, small group, or individual depending on experience, time, and ability

Have students complete a connections and reflections chart (three column chart) by recording their text to self, text to text and text to world connections. Now ask them to revisit the connections they have written on their chart. As the students reread the connections that they have made, encourage them to reflect on their connection in relation to the text. For example, while they were reading they may have made this text-to-self connection: "Like the boy in the book, I have been to a baseball game with my dad." Using this connection as an anchor to the text, ask the student to reflect upon that connection and relate it to the text. The student might reflect by writing, "I wonder what their favorite thing to do at the baseball game is? My dad and I like to get hot dogs with mustard." Or they might say, "My dad and I go see the Reds play every home game together." Encourage students to expand on their connections, think of questions about them, and use them to gain a deeper understanding of the story.

Supplies: chart, writing tools

Younger students can do this as a whole class or in small groups; older students should be able to complete this independently.

Resources:

Peachtree Online:

(2008). Peachtree Pointers. Retrieved June 22, 2008, from Peachtree Web site:
http://www.peachtree-online.com/pdfs/Dad_Jackie_and_Me_TG.pdf

This website offers teacher resources, anticipation guides, misc. worksheets, information about the author, and information about the illustrator.

Understanding Prejudice Teacher's Corner:

(2008). Elementary School Classroom Activities. Retrieved June 30, 2008, from Understanding Prejudice Teacher Corner Web site:

<http://www.understandingprejudice.org/teach/elemact.htm>

This website is designed for elementary teachers to use in their classrooms. There is an abundant supply of information, resources, and classroom activities available.

Book Activities:

- **Social Studies**

Locate other baseball parks around the country and map out locations.

Identify which stadiums are closest to and farthest away from where the students live.

Supplies: US map, global map, Major League Baseball website, sports pages

Recommended resources: mlb.com, local newspapers for sports pages, and *SI for Kids*

- **Language Arts:**

Write and draw a book about sign language.

Supplies: paper, writing tools, sign language chart

Recommended resources: <http://www.signingtimekids.org/>,
http://wings.avkids.com/Book/Signing/sign_time.html, and *Greetings and phrases* by Kathleen Petelinsek

Bibliography:

(2008). Peachtree Pointers. Retrieved June 22, 2008, from Peachtree Web site:
http://www.peachtree-online.com/pdfs/Dad_Jackie_and_Me_TG.pdf

Scholastic, (2008). Teacher Resources. Retrieved June 30, 2008, from Scholastic Books Teacher Web site:

<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/viewWorkDetail.do?workId=1233728&>

School Book Center Inc, (2008). State Book Awards Indiana. Retrieved June 30, 2008, from Dad, Jackie, and Me Web site:

http://indiana.statebookawards.com/html/dad_jackie_and_me.html