



Jackie & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure
By Dan Gutman

Grade/Class/Subject: Grades 6-8 Language Arts

Content Standards:

LA.6.2.1.5 The student will develop an interpretation of a selection and support through sustained use of examples and contextual evidence.

Content Objective(s): Meets FL STATUTE 1003.42 – *African and African-American History*

The student will read and analyze text by discussing guided reading questions.

Language Objective(s): The student will provide examples from the text to guide discussion and, in writing, formulate conclusions for the *Literature Circle Questions* or questions designated by the students and/or teacher.

Grouping Configurations: Whole class, Literature circles.

Story Synopsis: Joe Stoshack has to write a report on an African American who has made an important contribution to society. Unlike every other kid in his class, Joe has a special talent. With the help of old baseball cards, he can travel through time. So for his report, Joe decided to go back in time to meet one of the greatest baseball players ever, Jackie Robinson, to find out what it was like to be the man who broke baseball’s color barrier. Joe plans on writing the best book report in the class so that he can win four tickets to an amusement park. What he didn’t expect was to take trips that will for a short time change the color of his skin, and forever change his view of history and his definition of courage.

<u>Key Vocabulary</u>			<u>Supplementary Materials</u>
Polack	promotions	insistent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chart paper • Markers • Blank index cards
color barrier	meshuga	fuming	
rookie year	rundown	taunted	
shards of glass	endure	humiliate	
batboy	pioneering effort	anonymous tip	

Lesson Sequence

Introduction: Building Background

This is a great book to read to students during Black History Month. Use the *Literature Circle Questions* listed in the back pages of the book for guided reading responses.

1. Hold up a copy of the book and ask students to make predictions based on the title and pictures printed on the cover of the book. Tell them the story takes place in the present and in the past.
2. Read the introduction and ask students to make predictions about the story.

Modeling/Guided Instruction:

- 1) Read chapter one to students. On chart paper write the following: Explain what Stoshack meant when he said to himself, “Call me ugly. Call me stupid. Say I can’t hit. But don’t make fun of my nationality.”
- 2.) Divide students into groups and ask them which this is an example of—discrimination, stereotyping, or prejudice? As they listen to or read this story, they will see examples of all three practices.
- 3.) At the end of each chapter post one of the *Literature Circle Questions* listed in the back of the book or teacher-made or student-generated questions for group discussion and sharing.

Review/Assessment:

Give the students index cards and tell them they are going to create a baseball card for Jackie Robinson. They can draw a picture of Robinson and underneath the picture list the characteristics that he displayed throughout his life based on information from the book. For one of the characteristics mentioned on the baseball card, they should write a well-written paragraph that explains how Robinson displayed this quality.

For additional activities:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/search?query=Jackie+%26+me>