

Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #229,734 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #252 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #298 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

The story is a good one, and, if the afterword is to be believed, true to the author's life. His deaf father feels a personal connection to Jackie Robinson because of discrimination and prejudice, and

goes to all the games he can, learns as much about baseball as possible (the afterword explained that his father hadn't learned baseball at the residential school he attended as a child as it was considered a "waste of time" to teach deaf kids to play sports), and when the Dodgers win the World Series, our narrator's father is thrown a ball from his hero, so it's this triumph for him as well. It's a good story. Of course, the afterword is where the meat is. In the story itself, we're told that "The Giants hated Jackie Robinson", but no detail is given. The innocent reader might come away with the impression that the Giants disliked him simply because he was a good ball player! The afterword explains how our author's father told him to look out for all the unfair treatment Robinson would receive from the other team, all the petty bits of discrimination - this isn't mentioned in the book proper. The afterword explains why the author's father was so interested in Jackie Robinson (and why he knew so little about baseball prior to that, up to being unable to catch a ball) and also explains that his father told him about the first deaf man to play in the Major Leagues, well before this time. All of this information could have been integrated into the book, and it would have made the book a better read. I could understand leaving out some information for younger readers, but this book is written on an advanced enough level that I don't think that could apply here.

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