

**GRAPHIC
BIOGRAPHY**

Jackie Robinson





JACKIE ROBINSON

The year was 1947. In Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, one black man stood alone at first base—the first African American ever to play baseball in the major leagues.



IN HIS TEN YEARS
WITH THE BROOKLYN DODGERS,
JACKIE ROBINSON
BROKE THE COLOR BARRIER
AND CHANGED
THE SPORTS WORLD.





Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born in a sharecropper's cabin in Georgia on January 31, 1919.

He's a fine boy, Mallie!

Bless him! I just pray he has a chance to make something of his life!

A few months later, Jackie's father disappeared.

He's just run away and left his family behind. I don't know where he is!

I don't believe it! I think you do know!



Get out of my house and off my land! I'll keep your share of the crop for damages!



Sad and angry, Mallie Robinson moved her family away, with no pay for the past year's work.



A few months later ...

How would you like to move to California? My brother Burton writes that it's like the Promised Land!

They left Georgia in May 1920.

Here it comes, children, the freedom train!



But in Pasadena, California, things were not much better at first.

Now children, mind your aunt while I go out to find a job.



I can't find this address. I'll ask in here.

I wonder if you could help me.

That's what we are here for!



A little later, Mrs. Robinson returned home.

Mallie! I didn't know you in those clothes!

Welfare gave them to me—and clothes for the children, too!



Best of all they gave me a grocery order. And money to help with the rent! And I got a job!



Later, Mrs. Robinson's sister died.

Willa Mae, I have to work. There's no one to look after Jackie. You'll have to take him to school with you.



But at school ...

But Willa Mae, you can't bring your brother to school! He's too little! He can't even talk!

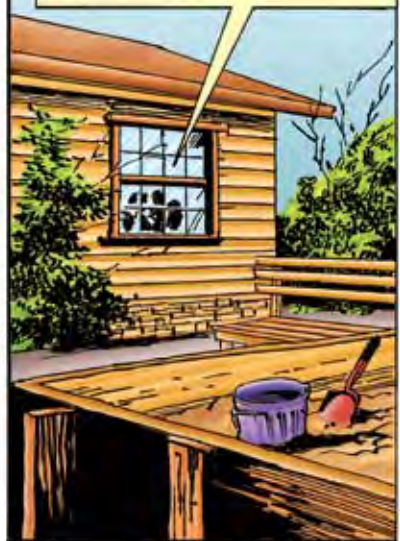


The next day, Mrs. Robinson went to school with the children.



I'd rather work than ask welfare for more money. But I can't work if I have to stay home with Jackie!

Could Willa Mae just leave Jackie in the sandbox everyday? He's a good boy. He won't bother anybody!



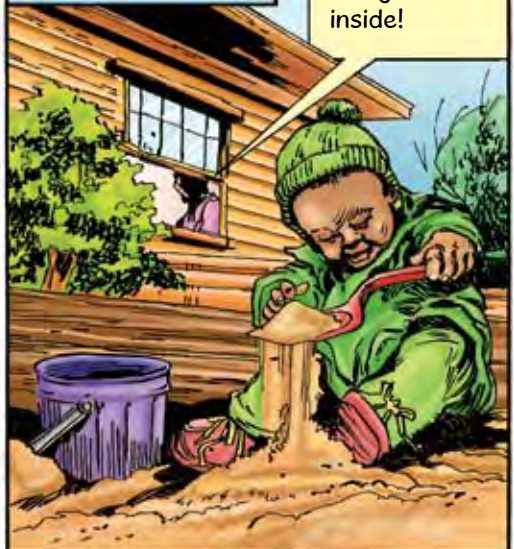
All right Mrs. Robinson, go to work and don't worry. We'll look after Jackie.

Thank you!



So Jackie spent his first school year in the sandbox.

Willa Mae, there's a storm coming. Bring Jackie inside!





Later, he went to school on his own and found he was good at baseball.

Jackie's gonna be on our team. Aren't you, Jackie?

He is not! He's gonna be on our team! How about it, Jackie?

Gosh, I don't know ...



If you play with us, we'll all split our lunches with you!

All right!

Jackie's mother worked hard, but she still could not buy enough food to feed her hungry family. They did what they could to help.



Jackie had a paper route ...



... and shined shoes ...



... and helped a gardener.



And on payday ...

Mama! Mama! I've got a dollar for you!



Thank you, son. You know every dollar helps! But I want you to save enough money so you can go through school.



But he did not work all the time.

Hey, man, we're the Pepper Street Gang. You wanna join?

Sure! What do you do?

Swipe golf balls, throw mud at cars, anything we can think of!



The gang had trouble with the police.

Look at that! Mud all over my windshield.

You kids will wind up in reform school if you don't watch out!

But in high school, Jackie found a better way to spend his time.



When he graduated in 1937, he had won a letter in each of four sports.

He won athletic scholarships to pay his expenses to Pasadena Junior College and then to the University of California, Los Angeles.

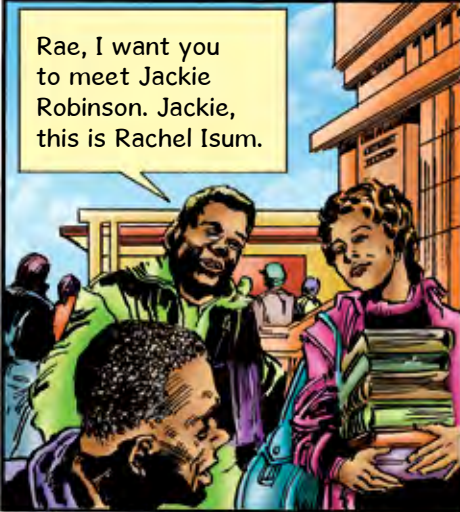


Yaaaaaaaaaaaay, Robinson!

Again at UCLA, he won a letter in four sports—the first student to ever do so.

Also, he met a young lady.

Rae, I want you to meet Jackie Robinson. Jackie, this is Rachel Isum.



Soon they were great friends.

It's funny ... I can tell you anything and you understand it, even if you disagree!

And it's funny, but before I met you, I thought you were just a stuck-up football player!



Then, before he finished his last college year, Jackie was offered a job.

But Jackie, you should finish college and get your degree.

It is the kind of job that I want working with young people. And I want to help you. You've been working hard ever since I can remember!



But in a few months, World War II broke out in Europe. Jackie's government job was cancelled.

You're a great athlete. Can't you get a job as a professional?

No major football, baseball, or basketball clubs hire black players! But I have been offered a job with the Honolulu Bears.

