Name: Date: Score: / 6

Jackie Robinson: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: History · about 255 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Jackie Robinson

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, New York, wearing a Brooklyn Dodgers uniform. With that step, he became the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball. For decades, unfair rules had kept Black players out of the major leagues. They played instead in the Negro Leagues, where many great athletes never got a chance at the big leagues.

Robinson was already an amazing athlete. At UCLA, he became the first student there to earn varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football, and track. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and then played for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues.

Branch Rickey, the president of the Dodgers, chose Robinson not only for his talent but also for his strength of character. Rickey warned him that he would face cruel insults and threats. He asked Robinson to promise not to fight back, at least at first. "I'm looking for a ballplayer with guts enough not to fight back," Rickey said.

Robinson kept that promise, even when fans, opponents, and sometimes teammates treated him terribly. He let his playing speak for him. In 1947, he won the first Rookie of the Year award. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player. He helped lead the Dodgers to six National League pennants.

Today, every April 15, all Major League players wear the number 42, Robinson's number, to honor him. It is the only number retired by every team in the league.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. the life of Branch Rickey B. how to play baseball C. how Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier D. the history of the Dodgers

2. **Detail:** What happened on April 15, 1947?

   A. Robinson became the first Black player in modern Major League Baseball. B. Robinson joined the Army. C. The Dodgers moved to Los Angeles. D. Robinson retired.

3. **Detail:** What did Robinson do at UCLA?

   A. coached the team B. earned varsity letters in four sports C. built a stadium D. studied to be a doctor

4. **Inference:** Why did Branch Rickey ask Robinson not to fight back?

   A. He knew Robinson would face insults, and fighting back could hurt his chances.

   B. Rickey did not like fighting in movies. C. Robinson was not strong.

   D. It was against baseball rules to talk.

5. **Detail:** What number do all players wear on April 15?

   A. 1 B. 99 C. 7 D. 42

6. **Vocabulary:** What does the phrase "let his playing speak for him" mean?

ANSWER KEY

Jackie Robinson: Reading Comprehension (answers)

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5. **Detail:** What number do all players wear on April 15?

   A. 1 B. 99 C. 7 **D. 42**

6. **Vocabulary:** What does the phrase "let his playing speak for him" mean?

   He answered the insults by playing well instead of arguing or fighting.