Interdisciplinary Ideas

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Write "I Dream of a World" poems.*
   Post online and/or on a bulletin board (See Wrap-Up #2.)

2. In pairs, make a "Teammates Mini-Dictionary" of the vocabulary words for the story. Create a page for each word and include the following information: the word, a definition, a sentence, an illustration, and an antonym with a definition and a sentence. Compile pages, make a cover, and present one or two words to the class.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In small groups, choose one of the following to investigate, write about, and report to your class:

- Find out when and how Jackie Robinson spoke out against racial discrimination. (Keyword: Jackie Robinson) One good source is Baseball's Great Experiment; Jackie Robinson and His Legacy by Jules Tygiel.
- Investigate the Negro leagues. (Keyword: Negro Baseball Leagues) Choose a topic for your report such as history, great players, or teams. Include pictures in your report.

MATH

1. Visit the Negro League Baseball Museum online. Go to the museum store and list all the items you would buy if you had $100 to spend. (Keyword: Negro Leagues Baseball Museum)

2. Obtain a package of baseball cards. Using a current baseball card magazine, determine the value of your cards.


Teammates

Peter Golenbock
1990
New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

LOYALTY
U.S.A.
Non-fiction
Reading Time: 10 minutes

CONCEPTS
Loyalty
Respect
Courage

SUMMARY
In this tale of Jackie Robinson's courageous entrance into major league baseball, his teammate, Pee Wee Reese, displays loyalty and respect to counter prejudice. Photographs and copies of newspaper headlines together with Paul Bacon's pastel drawings illustrate the racial prejudice as well as the acceptance and support finally experienced by Robinson.

OBJECTIVES
The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss loyalty, respect, and courage as they apply to the story. The student will explore ways to counteract injustice and prejudice.

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After the Story

Teammates

DISCUSSION

1. How did Pee Wee Reese show loyalty to Jackie Robinson? How do you think this made Robinson feel? Why? Why do you think Reese chose to make his statement of support when he did? Explain how loyalty requires you to act on your beliefs. How is loyalty related to courage?

2. What was “the great experiment”? Why did Mr. Rickey want “a man who had the courage not to fight back?” Do you agree with his position? Why or why not?

3. What humiliations did Robinson suffer? Why do you think he endured abuse and hostility from other players and fans? What important changes occurred for baseball? How do you think these changes affected other sports?

4. Discuss the courage and respect displayed by Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, and Branch Rickey. Tell about a time you or someone you know stood up for a student who was being treated unfairly.

ACTIVITIES

1. Locate Brooklyn, New York, and Cincinnati, Ohio, on a U.S. map. Investigate to find the Dodgers’ schedule of games in 1947. Find the home cities of the teams they played and place a pennant for each one. (Keyword: Brooklyn Dodgers 1947 schedule)

2. Create a Heartwood card honoring someone you respect. Draw the person’s face on the front of a blank index card or attach a photograph. Enter name, occupation, and attributes. Make a copy for the special person and post cards on a bulletin board titled “Heartwood Classics Collection.”

3. With a partner, go to www.teachingtolerance.org, choose “For Kids,” try out one of the activities, write a paragraph about what you learned, and share with the class.

EXTENSION

1. Retell the story at home. Ask family members to tell about times they stood up for people who were treated unfairly. With permission, share their experiences with the class.

2. Hold family meetings to plan strategies for helping each other in difficult situations involving unfair treatment. Discuss peaceful ways to counteract injustices in your community.

VOCABULARY

- segregation
- prejudice
- vigilante
- humiliation
- apathetic
- taunts

WRAP-UP

1. In My Heartwood Journal, write about all the Heartwood attributes you can find in the story. Give examples and explanations.

2. In small groups look at the kids’ “One World Mural” online. (Keyword: planet tolerance) Add your own words (e.g., poems from Language Arts #1) and drawings to the online mural and/or create one on a bulletin board in your classroom.