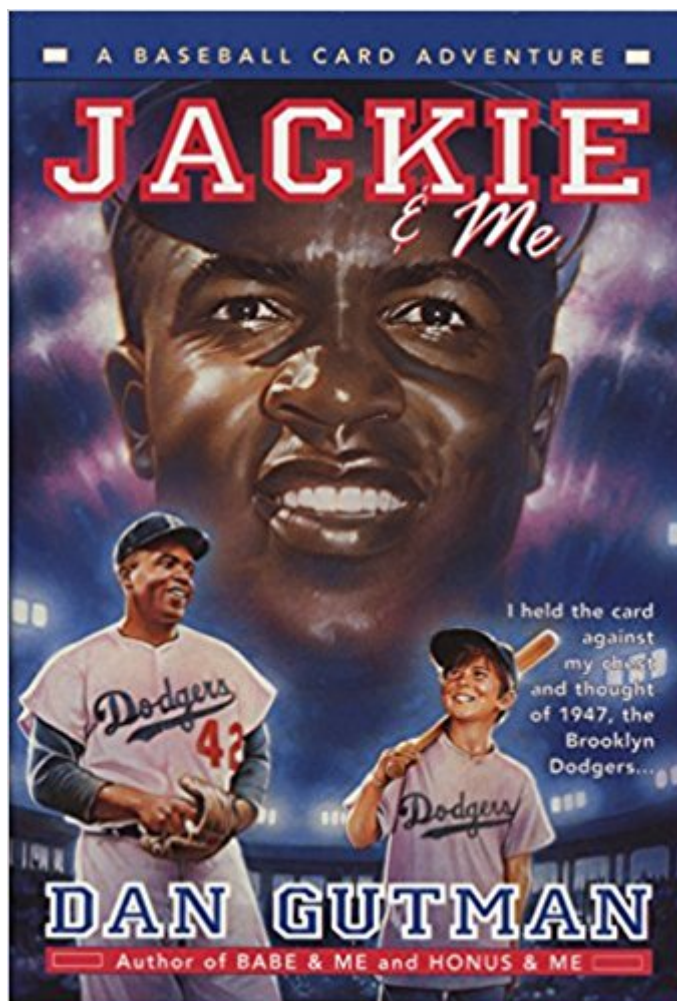


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Jackie & Me (Baseball Card Adventures)



Synopsis

Like every other kid in his class, Joe Stoscack has to write a report on an African American who's 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 decides to go back 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 a prize-winning report. But he doesn't plan on a trip that will for a short time change the color of his skin -- and forever change his view of history and his definition of 01-02 Golden Sower Award Masterlist (YA Cat.) and 00 Pennsylvania Keystone to Reading Book Award (Intermed. Cat.) Like every other kid in his class, Joe Stoshack has to write a report on an African American who's 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 decides to go back 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 a prize-winning report. But he doesn't plan on a trip that will for a short time change the color of his skin--and forever change his view of history and his definition of courage.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7-Fans of the author's *Honus & Me* (Avon, 1997) know that young Joe Stoshack has the ability to visit the past via baseball cards. As part of a project for Black History Month, he gets his mitt on a loaned Jackie Robinson card to visit 1947 New York City and the man who broke the major league baseball color line. Not only does Joe travel back in time over 50 years, stay at the Robinson's apartment, and become a bat boy for the Dodgers, but he is also transformed from a Polish American into an African American, introducing some interesting perspectives on race in the mid-20th century. The book is accurate in its baseball statistics, the geography and lingo of Brooklyn, and, unfortunately, in some of the harsh racial terms applied to African Americans in the 1940s. Fans of America's favorite pastime will particularly appreciate the detail and descriptions of some great games, including the 1947 World Series. An interesting addendum puts the story into further historical context and explains some of the liberties the author took writing the book. Full of action, this title will spark history discussions and be a good choice for book reports and leisure reading. Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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"POUNDS HOME A POWERFUL MESSAGE ABOUT A GREAT MAN IN A KID-FRIENDLY WAY . . . GREAT PLAY-BY-PLAY ACTION". Buffalo News "Fans of America's favorite pastime will particularly appreciate the details...Full of action, this title will spark history discussions and be a good choice for book reports and leisure reading." -- "School Library Journal" "Dan Gutman has devised a wonderful mechanism for teaching social history while telling a great tale." -- "The Philadelphia Inquirer" "Pounds home a powerful message about a great man in a kid-friendly way...great play-by-play action." -- "Buffalo News"

Jackie Robinson is well known and the first African American to break into the major leagues. He was also a heckuva guy, and this adventure tells you why. He was a better man than I am, because he was able to simply stand on his record and let his actions endear him to his teammates, and then to the public at large. I'd probably have killed somebody, but as I said, he was a better man. Stosh not only meets Jackie, but he also gets to experience being a black kid back in the day when, frankly, you were better off not being one. (I know, you're still most likely better off as a caucasian, but it was worse. A lot worse.) Somebody had to be the one to stop putting up with the nonsense,

and like Ms. Parks on her bus a few years later, Jackie Robinson was just the man to do that. Good book. Worth the reading.

Every year I make a point of revisiting the kid in me by reading one children's book. After seeing the hit movie "42" about the legendary Jackie Robinson I wanted to learn more about the man who broke baseball's color barrier. Then along came Dan Gutman's Jackie & Me, one of the best children's books this reader ever read. This tale of a boy who travels back to 1947 to meet Robinson and in the process learns firsthand what it was like to be a person of color in late 1940s America hits a home run right out of Ebbets Field. Jackie & Me is about making dreams come true, about perseverance, about a time when tough, gritty men with zany personalities played their hearts out in dusty little ballparks... Gutman chalks up a never-to-be-forgotten history lesson in an entertaining yet meaningful way. Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart with a hungering for heroes, Jackie & Me should be part of your reading lineup.

Great

The book has a lot of interesting facts and great life lessons on Jackie Robinson. When Joe Stoshack travels back in time to 1947, he meets Jackie Robinson and learns that everyone was so hard on African Americans and did very bad things to them. Joe learns that it isn't worth it to fight about something or get angry about it

This was a great book because it had a strong connection between Jackie and Joe. People made fun of Joe because he was Polish, and people made fun of Jackie because he was Black. So this story brings people together. - Elizabeth, 10, Indianapolis, IN

I have always done a lot of reading and enjoy TRUE STORIES especially. So far I have found that most of the True Crime writers are a group of their own and all of them are very good at what they do. The books are very good books and most of them are quick reads.

Nice story for kids.

This is the best book I have ever read because I love baseball and it teaches you a lot about Jackie Robinson. He had to deal with a lot of tough situations and made good choices. Jack. Age 9

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