Write About a Barrier You Have Faced

Each year April 15 marks the anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball in 1947. The Grade 9: Breaking Barriers Essay Contest is a chance for students from all backgrounds in grade 9 to share their personal stories and show how they use Jackie Robinson’s values to face their own barriers.

How to Enter:

1. Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson’s nine values (listed below) to face this barrier.

   - courage
   - determination
   - teamwork
   - persistence
   - integrity
   - citizenship
   - justice
   - commitment
   - excellence

2. On each entry, include the following information:

   - your first and last name
   - school name
   - name of 9th-grade teacher designated for the contest
   - school city/state

3. Submit your essay in one of two ways:

   Mail entry to:
   Grade 9: Breaking Barriers Essay Contest
   Scholastic Inc.
   P.O. Box 713
   New York, NY 10013-0713

   Enter online at:
   www.scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9

   • All mail-in entries must be postmarked by February 21, 2012.
   • All online entries must be received by February 21, 2012.
   • Each essay must be between 500 and 1,200 words.
   • All essays must be factual and based on the student’s real-life experience. Fictional stories will be disqualified.

You Could Win:

• A trip for two to a game of the 2012 Major League Baseball World Series®
• A laptop computer for you and one for your designated teacher
• A class visit from Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson

(See next page for further prize information.)

Judging Criteria:

Essays will be evaluated for proper grammar and correct spelling as well as according to the following criteria:

• How well does the essay express the student’s barrier?
• How well does the essay express how one or more of the values—courage, determination, teamwork, persistence, integrity, citizenship, justice, commitment, and excellence—is used to face and/or overcome the barrier?
• How well is the essay organized to express what the writer wants to say?
• How effective is the essay in expressing the writer’s point of view?
One Grade 9 Grand Prize Winner Will Receive:

- A trip for two to a game of the 2012 Major League Baseball World Series
- One laptop computer
- One laptop computer for his/her designated 9th-grade teacher
- A class visit from Sharon Robinson; a class set of Promises to Keep books and Breaking Barriers T-shirts.

Jackie Robinson’s Nine Values

COURAGE: Doing what you know is the right thing even when it is hard to do

DETERMINATION: Staying focused on a plan even though the path to its end may be difficult

TEAMWORK: Working with other people toward a common goal

PERSISTENCE: Working toward a goal and continuing to move forward even though you face obstacles or barriers

INTEGRITY: Sticking to your values, regardless of what others think you should do

CITIZENSHIP: Making a contribution that improves the lives of others

JUSTICE: Treating all people fairly, no matter who they are

COMMITMENT: Making a promise and following through on it

EXCELLENCE: Doing the best that you possibly can

FOR TEACHERS: Free Printables
Visit www.scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/grade9 for downloadable free materials on Jackie Robinson and Breaking Barriers.