

# 2015 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest



Michael Andalaro, 2014 Grand Prize Winner for Grade 9, with Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson.

**Deadline March 13, 2015**

**Grade 9**

## 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. Honoring this important event, the **Breaking Barriers Essay Contest** is a chance for diverse students to share their personal stories and 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.**

- |               |                 |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • Citizenship | • Determination | • Justice     |
| • Commitment  | • Excellence    | • Persistence |
| • Courage     | • Integrity     | • Teamwork    |

**2 On each entry, include the following information:**

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

**3 Submit your essay in one of two ways:**

**Mail your entry to:**

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

**Enter online at:**

[scholastic.com/  
breakingbarriers/kids/grade9](http://scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9)

- **All entries must be submitted by March 13, 2015.**
- **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.**

## One Grand Prize Winner Will Receive:

**A trip for two to a game of the  
2015 Major League Baseball  
World Series**

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**A laptop computer or tablet for  
you and one for your teacher**

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**A class visit from  
Sharon Robinson, daughter  
of Jackie Robinson**

.....

**A class set of *Promises to Keep*  
books by Sharon Robinson**

.....

**A class set of  
Breaking Barriers T-shirts**

## Essays will be evaluated 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—*citizenship, commitment, courage, determination, excellence, integrity, justice, persistence, and teamwork*—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?
- How well does the essay incorporate an example of Jackie Robinson?
- Correct grammar and spelling will also be considered.

**RULES: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** All students who are legal residents of, and currently reside in, the United States and Canada (excluding Quebec) and who are currently enrolled in grade 9 are eligible to enter, except for those who have family members employed by Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., Scholastic Inc., and other related companies (see the Official Rules for a complete listing). **All entries must be written in English.** Visit [www.scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/grade9](http://www.scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/grade9) for complete Official Rules. Limit one entry per person. All prospective winners and their respective parents/legal guardians will be required to sign, notarize, and return an affidavit of eligibility/release of liability within ten (10) days of date of notification or an alternate winner may be selected. In the event of prize unavailability, a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded as determined by the sole discretion of MLB. No cash substitutions for prizes. Prizes are nontransferable. Void where prohibited.