Values and Barriers

We all face different kinds of barriers in our lives. Read on to learn how students across the country have overcome their unique barriers by using Jackie Robinson’s Nine Values.

Asma, Grade 5, New York
Barrier: Wearing a head covering as part of her Muslim culture
“Like Jackie Robinson, I was discriminated against and treated poorly. Integrity is a value Jackie and I used to help us get through being treated this way.... He didn’t fight back and never let others get the reaction they wanted. I’ve done the same.”

Zoe, Grade 5, Ohio
Barrier: Dyslexia
“I was determined to take my feelings of sadness and frustration and turn them into something positive.... Like Jackie Robinson, I was going to be persistent and not ‘wait ‘til next year.’ ”

Hafsa, Grade 6, New York
Barrier: Mother’s death
“I can’t forget that day, but I did have to find a way to move on.... One of Jackie Robinson’s values, courage, has helped me through this challenge. Courage has helped me live a day at a time without the love and guidance my mom provided.”

Colin, Grade 7, Iowa
Barrier: Parents’ divorce
“The thought of my parents leaving each other was horrifying enough but it actually happening was much worse than I ever thought.... I stayed strong through all of this by using Jackie Robinson’s value of excellence.... Even though everything was pretty bad, I did my best.”

Gabrielle, Grade 8, Michigan
Barrier: Racial bullying at school
“I knew that it would require teamwork for me to gather up courage to stand up to her.... I reached out to all of my friends and asked them if she had ever said anything racist towards them.... I was shocked and I knew we had to tell the principal about this.”

KEY TERMS
> VALUE A belief that is important to you and helps to guide your life
> BARRIER A challenge or obstacle that makes it difficult for you to move forward

JACKIE ROBINSON’S NINE VALUES

CITIZENSHIP
Making a contribution that improves the lives of others

COMMITMENT
Making a promise and following through on it

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

EXCELLENCE
Doing the best that you possibly can

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

JUSTICE
Treating all people fairly, no matter who they are

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

TEAMWORK
Working with other people toward a common goal