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# Marlins Think Tank: Fourth Grade Language Arts
## Lesson Plan #2

### VISION-SETTING

<table>
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<th>OBJECTIVE.</th>
<th>KEY POINTS.</th>
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<td>What is your objective?</td>
<td>What knowledge and skills are embedded in the objective?</td>
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- **Student will be able to:**
  - 1. RL.4.3. Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions) *(literary elements)*
  - 2. RI.4.6. Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided. *(compare and contrast)*

- **1. Setting is the time and place of a story.**
- **2. Readers must be able to determine information about a character based on what he or she does in a story. Not every bit of information about a character is going to be stated.**
- **3. Readers must be able to compare and contrast characters in a story in order to understand multiple perspectives.**

### ASSESSMENT.

Describe, briefly, what students will do to show you that they have mastered (or made progress toward) the objective.

- Students will be able to complete a Venn Diagram comparing Jackie Robinson’s life to that of one of the modern-day Miami Marlins, Jeff Conine.

### OPENING (10 min.)

How will you communicate what is about to happen? How will you communicate how it will happen? How will you communicate its importance? How will you communicate connections to previous lessons? How will you engage students and capture their interest?

According to you, what does prejudice mean? Where do you see prejudice or discrimination in your life? Do you think that you can change it? Why or why not? Write at least five sentences.

After students have written for five minutes, the teacher will begin: Has anyone heard the word prejudice before? No? That’s okay! Today we are going to talk a little bit about prejudice, which is an unfair judgment of someone, and discrimination.

Today we are going to be talk about Jackie Robinson, and learn about the life of one of our very own MIAMI MARLINS! Jackie Robinson fought against racial prejudice and discrimination by competing as the only African-American player in Major League Baseball in the 1940s and 1950s.

You will be able to learn about the important parts of a story (including setting and characterization) by learning about Jackie Robinson’s life. You will also learn how to compare and contrast when we learn about the life of a modern day baseball player on the Marlins team!

### MATERIALS.

- PowerPoint
- Student Notebooks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTRODUCTION OF NEW MATERIAL (10 min.)</th>
<th>- As a class, let’s read the biography of Jackie Robinson. As we read, underline the following things: 1. Any new and unfamiliar words 2. The SETTINGS of Jackie Robinson’s life. Setting is the TIME and PLACE of a story. Where did Jackie live/work in his life? When did he do these things? Students may then popcorn read/choral read/listen to the biography of Jackie Robinson, completing the above during-reading activities.</th>
<th>PowerPoint  &quot;Biography of Jackie Robinson&quot; handout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GUIDED PRACTICE (20 min.)</td>
<td>- We will answer and review the following questions as a class. You may write your answers on the biography sheet that you have in front of you. 1. What are the settings of Jackie Robinson’s life? Hint: Setting is the time and place of a story. 2. What was Jackie Robinson like as a child? What does this show about him? 3. How did Jackie Robinson challenge discrimination and segregation? Hint: Segregation is the separation of people (in this case, based on skin color). 4. Was Jackie Robinson a good baseball player? How do you know? We will have ten minutes to complete this assignment. After ten minutes, we will watch a video of the interview of a modern day MIAMI MARLIN, Jeff Conine! While we are watching the video, jot down the answers to the following questions in your notebook: 1. Is baseball a diverse sport these days? In other words, are there all different ethnic groups playing in the same league? 2. What is the life of the MARLIN like? Did he always know that he would play baseball? 3. What does the MARLIN think about Jackie Robinson?</td>
<td>PowerPoint  &quot;Biography of Jackie Robinson&quot; handout  Student notebooks  Jeff Conine Interview Clip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (15 min.)</td>
<td>- The “Marlins Think Tank: Venn Diagram” handouts provide students the opportunity to compare and contrast two characters (in this case, real-life characters!). Teachers may say: Now it’s your turn. Let’s combine our knowledge of Jackie Robinson, and our knowledge of a modern day MARLIN, Jeff Conine! Using a Venn Diagram (which I will model on the board) compare and contrast the lives of the two baseball players. You should have at least three bullets, or sentences, in EACH SECTION. You can do it! Be a compare/contrast show-off!</td>
<td>PowerPoint  “Marlins Think Tank: Venn Diagram” Handout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Assessment:</td>
<td>Lesson Assessment: Once students have had an opportunity to practice independently, how will they attempt to demonstrate mastery of the knowledge/skills required of the objective? Teachers will utilize the Venn Diagrams to determine if students mastered the objectives: comprehending the life of Jackie Robinson, and completing the compare/contrast exercise.</td>
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## CLOSING (5 min.)
How will students summarize and state the significance of what they learned?

Today we covered some very important topics: literary elements (setting and characterization), compare and contrast, and prejudice and discrimination. For our closing, I would like you to write ONE important thing that you learn about on the bottom of your Venn Diagram. Great job!

You have a very important **homework assignment**: You must begin writing your essay for the Breaking Barriers Essay Contest (http://www.scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/), which is hosted by the Miami Marlins.

Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson’s nine values to face this barrier. The nine values include: courage, persistence, justice, determination, integrity, teamwork, citizenship, excellence, and commitment. Use the “Breaking Barriers Essay Contest” handout to help you. We will review and improve your essays in class before we submit them!
Biography of Jackie Robinson

Courtesy of Jackie Robinson: The Official Website

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919 to a family of sharecroppers. His mother, Mallie Robinson, single-handedly raised Jackie and her four other children. They were the only black family on their block, and the prejudice they encountered only strengthened their bond. From this humble beginning would grow the first baseball player to break Major League Baseball’s color barrier that segregated the sport for more than 50 years.

Growing up in a large, single-parent family, Jackie excelled early at all sports and learned to make his own way in life. At UCLA, Jackie became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. In 1941, he was named to the All-American football team. Due to financial difficulties, he was forced to leave college, and eventually decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. After two years in the army, he had progressed to second lieutenant. Jackie’s army career was cut short when he was court-martialed in relation to his objections with incidents of racial discrimination. In the end, Jackie left the Army with an honorable discharge.

In 1945, Jackie played one season in the Negro Baseball League, traveling all over the Midwest with the Kansas City Monarchs. But greater challenges and achievements were in store for him. In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey approached Jackie about joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Major Leagues had not had an African-American player since 1889, when baseball became segregated. When Jackie first donned a Brooklyn Dodger uniform, he pioneered the integration of professional athletics in America. By breaking the color barrier in baseball, the nation’s preeminent sport, he courageously challenged the deeply rooted custom of racial segregation in both the North and the South.

At the end of Robinson’s rookie season with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he had become National League Rookie of the Year with 12 homers, a league-leading 29 steals, and a .297 average. In 1949, he was selected as the NL’s Most Valuable player of the Year and also won the batting title with a .342 average that same year. As a result of his great success, Jackie was eventually inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Jackie married Rachel Isum, a nursing student he met at UCLA, in 1946. As an African-American baseball player, Jackie was on display for the whole country to judge. Rachel and their three children, Jackie Jr., Sharon and David, provided Jackie with the emotional support and sense of purpose essential for bearing the pressure during the early years of baseball.
Jackie Robinson's life and legacy will be remembered as one of the most important in American history. In 1997, the world celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Jackie's breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier. In doing so, we honored the man who stood defiantly against those who would work against racial equality and acknowledged the profound influence of one man's life on the American culture. On the date of Robinson's historic debut, all Major League teams across the nation celebrated this milestone. Also that year, on United States Post Office honored Robinson by making him the subject of a commemorative postage stamp. On Tuesday, April 15 President Bill Clinton paid tribute to Jackie at Shea Stadium in New York in a special ceremony.

1. What are the settings of Jackie Robinson’s life? Hint: Setting is the time and place of a story.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What was Jackie Robinson like as a child? What does this show about him?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

3. How did Jackie Robinson challenge discrimination and segregation? Hint: Segregation is the separation of people (in this case, based on skin color).

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Was Jackie Robinson a good baseball player? How do you know?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
What is one important thing that you learned today?
_______________________________________________________________________________________
Lesson 2

1. **RL.4.3.** Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions) (*literary elements*)

2. **RI.4.6.** Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided. (*compare and contrast*)
Do Now

According to you, what does prejudice mean? Where do you see prejudice or discrimination in your life? Do you think that you can change it? Why or why not? Write at least five sentences.
But...WHY?

- Today we are going to be talk about Jackie Robinson, and learn about the life of one of our very own MIAMI MARLINS! Jackie Robinson fought against racial prejudice and discrimination by competing as the only African-American player in Major League Baseball in the 1940s and 1950s.

- You will be able to learn about the important parts of a story (including setting and characterization) by learning about Jackie Robinson’s life. You will also learn how to compare and contrast when we learn about the life of a modern day baseball player on the Marlins team!
Jackie Robinson

As a class, let’s read the biography of Jackie Robinson. As we read, underline the following things:

1. Any new and unfamiliar words

2. The SETTINGS of Jackie Robinson’s life. Setting is the TIME and PLACE of a story. Where did Jackie live/work in his life? When did he do these things?
Responding to Jackie Robinson

We will answer and review the following questions as a class. You may write your answers on the biography sheet that you have in front of you.

1. What are the settings of Jackie Robinson’s life? Hint: Setting is the time and place of a story.

2. What was Jackie Robinson like as a child? What does this show about him?

3. How did Jackie Robinson challenge discrimination and segregation? Hint: Segregation is the separation of people (in this case, based on skin color).

4. Was Jackie Robinson a good baseball player? How do you know?
Let’s Learn About a MODERN-DAY MARLIN
Let’s Learn About a MODERN-DAY MARLIN

As we watch the following video, respond to the following questions in your notebook:

1) Is baseball a diverse sport these days? In other words, are there all different ethnic groups playing in the same league?

2) What is the life of the MARLIN like? Did he always know that he would play baseball?

3) What does the MARLIN think about Jackie Robinson?
Compare and Contrast

• Now it’s your turn. Let’s combine our knowledge of Jackie Robinson, and our knowledge of a modern day MARLIN.

• Using a Venn Diagram (which I will model on the board) compare and contrast the lives of the two baseball players. You should have at least three bullets, or sentences, in EACH SECTION.

• You can do it! Be a compare/contrast show-off!
Closing

• Today we covered some very important topics: literary elements (setting and characterization), compare and contrast, and prejudice and discrimination. For our closing, I would like you to write ONE important thing that you learn about on the bottom of your Venn Diagram. Great job!
Your Homework

• You have a very important **homework assignment**: You must begin writing your essay for the Breaking Barriers Essay Contest, which is hosted by the Miami Marlins.

• Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson’s nine values to face this barrier. The nine values include: courage, persistence, justice, determination, integrity, teamwork, citizenship, excellence, and commitment. Use the “Breaking Barriers Essay Contest” handout to help you. We will review and improve your essays in class before we submit them!