

# Guts Enough Not to Fight Back



**These are new words to practice.  
Say each word 10 times.**

\* baseball

\* temper

\* player

\* together

\* guts

\* cruel

\* enough

\* fought

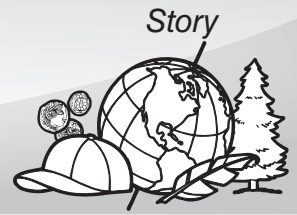
**Choose one new word to write.**

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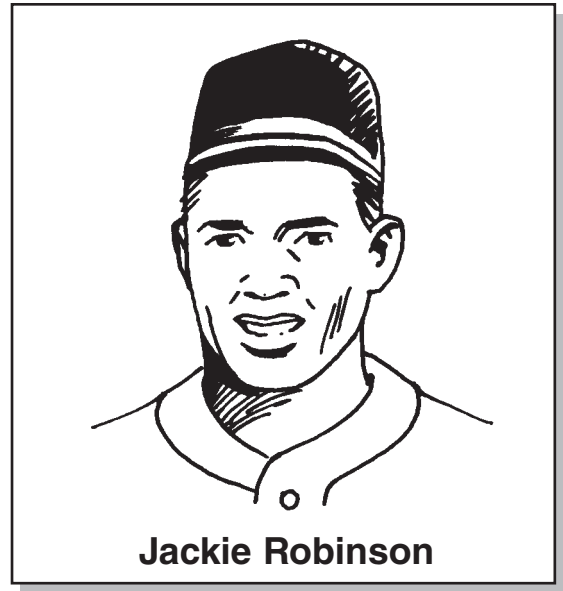
# Guts Enough Not to Fight Back



Branch Rickey wanted a baseball player. The baseball player needed something. The player needed “guts enough not to fight back.” Jackie Robinson was that player.

Robinson was born in 1919. He was born in Georgia. His grandparents had been slaves. He was a hard worker. He knew how to keep his temper. Robinson was a player with guts enough not to fight back.

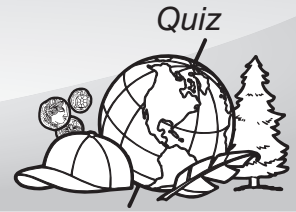
Before Robinson, black and white players did not play together. Whites played on their own teams. Blacks played on their own teams. Some people wanted to change this. They wanted to make baseball a true team sport. Rickey was the president of a white team. The team was the Brooklyn Dodgers. Rickey asked Robinson to play on his team. The year was 1945.



Many people were mad. They were angry. They did not want black and white players on the same team. Rickey knew that people would be mad. He knew they would be cruel. He knew they would fight. That is why Rickey needed a player with “guts enough not to fight back.”

What would happen if Robinson fought back? If Robinson fought back, it would prove to some people that white and black players could not get along. It would prove that white and black players could not be on the same teams. People were very cruel to Robinson. They hit him. They threw balls at him. They called him names. They sent him mean letters. They tried to stick their sharp shoe spikes into him. Robinson did not lose his temper. He did not hit back. He did not call anyone names. Robinson fought back in a different way. He fought back by playing even harder. He hit lots of balls. He stole bases. He helped his team. His team began to win and win. Robinson became a hero. He showed everyone that baseball is a true team sport. Today, baseball players of all colors play together. Robinson had the guts to show people how.

# Guts Enough Not to Fight Back



After reading the story, answer the questions.  
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. What year did Rickey ask Robinson to play on his team?

- (a) 1919
- (b) 1945
- (c) 1954
- (d) 1991

2. This story is mainly about

- (a) baseball
- (b) a team sport
- (c) baseball players of all colors
- (d) a man with guts enough not to fight back

3. What did Robinson do to fight back in a different way?

- (a) He threw balls.
- (b) He played harder.
- (c) He lost his temper.
- (d) He called people names.

4. From the story you can tell that in a true team sport

- (a) all players need to be the same skin color
- (b) some players cannot be on the same team
- (c) all players have shoes with sharp spikes
- (d) the skin color of the players does not matter

5. Think about how the word *mad* relates to the word *angry*. What words relate in the same way?

**mad : angry**

- (a) mean : cruel
- (b) black : color
- (c) temper : fight
- (d) baseball : team

# Answer Key



## Fishing on a Giraffe's Back

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. d      5. a
- 3. c

## Bringing Land to Water

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. c      5. b
- 3. d

## A Humbug Insect

- 1. b      4. b
- 2. d      5. a
- 3. a

## New Zealand Exchange Student

- 1. b      4. c
- 2. a      5. b
- 3. d

## Mike Fink and The Mississippi

- 1. c      4. c
- 2. a      5. d
- 3. a

## Not Enough Trees for a House

- 1. a      4. d
- 2. b      5. a
- 3. b

## Where Was Ride?

- 1. c      4. d
- 2. d      5. a
- 3. a

## One-Room School House

- 1. d      4. c
- 2. b      5. b
- 3. d

## A Law About Spinning

- 1. b      4. a
- 2. c      5. c
- 3. a

## A Muddy Joke

- 1. a      4. c
- 2. a      5. d
- 3. a

## A Spelling Lesson

- 1. d      4. a
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. c

## The Ojibwe and Maple Sugar

- 1. c      4. a
- 2. b      5. a
- 3. c

## Guts Enough Not to Fight Back

- 1. b      4. d
- 2. d      5. a
- 3. b

## Ambulance of the Seas

- 1. c      4. a
- 2. a      5. c
- 3. b

## A Supreme Court Case

- 1. c      4. b
- 2. b      5. d
- 3. c

## A House Without Doors

- 1. b      4. a
- 2. c      5. a
- 3. c

## Pictures that Teach

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. d      5. c
- 3. c

## True Stories About Coins

- 1. c      4. d
- 2. a      5. b
- 3. d

## The Great Lakes

- 1. b      4. d
- 2. a      5. b
- 3. a

## Great Grandpa and the Mine

- 1. d      4. c
- 2. c      5. a
- 3. d

## Sitting Bull

- 1. b      4. c
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. d

## Arrested for Voting

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. b      5. a
- 3. c

## All About Milk

- 1. c      4. a
- 2. b      5. d
- 3. a

## A Symbol of Hope

- 1. b      4. a
- 2. d      5. d
- 3. a

## Saved from Rabies

- 1. a      4. c
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. d

## How Canada Got Its Name

- 1. c      4. d
- 2. c      5. b
- 3. d

## Cattle Drive

- 1. d      4. a
- 2. a      5. c
- 3. d

## What the President Can't Do

- 1. c      4. a
- 2. b      5. d
- 3. b

## "Go for Broke"

- 1. a      4. a
- 2. d      5. c
- 3. b

## Tomato Story

- 1. a      4. c
- 2. b      5. d
- 3. b

## The Oregon Trail

- 1. d      4. c
- 2. d      5. b
- 3. a

## The Man Who Didn't Wear Socks

- 1. b      4. d
- 2. c      5. a
- 3. d

## The Underground Railroad

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. c      5. a
- 3. d

## A Store Like No Other

- 1. a      4. d
- 2. c      5. d
- 3. b

## Following the Crops

- 1. b      4. c
- 2. c      5. b
- 3. d

## Seward's Icebox

- 1. d      4. b
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. d

## Making Congress Fair

- 1. c      4. b
- 2. b      5. a
- 3. d

## Medical Detective

- 1. a      4. c
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. d

## What the Shoes Told

- 1. d      4. d
- 2. b      5. c
- 3. a

## Work Parties

- 1. c      4. b
- 2. a      5. d
- 3. a

## The Rockies

- 1. a      4. d
- 2. a      5. c
- 3. d

## Twelve People in a Box

- 1. c      4. b
- 2. d      5. a
- 3. c

## True Stories About Money

- 1. c      4. a
- 2. b      5. a
- 3. d

## Fighting Fire!

- 1. b      4. b
- 2. c      5. c
- 3. d