

## Hear from Jackie Robinson: Selected Interviews & Speeches

[Essay delivered on Edward R. Murrow's \*This I Believe\* radio series, 1952](#) – Jackie Robinson delivers an essay about integrating baseball, his belief in humanity, and the perseverance to overcome obstacles. (4 minutes)

[Baseball Hall of Fame acceptance speech, 1962](#) – Robinson's remarks upon being inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame, thanking Branch Rickey, his mother Mallie Robinson, his wife Rachel Robinson, and others. (3 minutes)

[Excerpt from a speech delivered in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963](#) – Robinson delivered these remarks at a local church while visiting Birmingham in May 1963 in response to student protests during the Children's Crusade. (1 minute)

[Speech delivered at St. Paul's A.M.E. Church in St. Augustine, Florida, 1964](#) – Robinson discusses the notion of "having it made" and the racist violence taking place in St. Augustine, while praising the St. Augustine community for their work fighting against discrimination. (5 minutes)

[Conversation Interview, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1971](#) – Dr. Lionel Barrow and Tejumola Ologeboni interview Robinson about his sports career, business endeavors, and activism during a campus visit to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; access via UWM Libraries. (29 minutes)

[Speeches delivered at the World Series in Cincinnati, 1972](#) – Sports announcer Red Barber and Commissioner of Baseball Bowie Kuhn honor Robinson in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of breaking the color line, followed by Robinson's acceptance speech in which he calls for integrated sports management. (9 minutes)

[Interview on \*The Dick Cavett Show\*, 1972](#) – Talk show host Dick Cavett interviews Robinson about a range of topics including the progress of baseball integration, experiences handling racism, political elections, and housing equality. (16 minutes)

## Sports Research on Jackie Robinson's Athletic Career

### Statistics

[Career statistics and rankings, Major League Baseball](#) – Season-by-season stats and career totals for Robinson's ten years on the Brooklyn Dodgers (1947-1956) via MLB.com.

[Career summary and statistics, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum](#) – Robinson's baseball career through Baseball Hall of Fame's statistics, images, and related videos, plus view a 3D rendering of Robinson's Hall of Fame plaque.

### Articles and Timelines

[Interactive timeline, Jackie Robinson Foundation](#) – Images and information about key events in Robinson's life, including his youth, college experience, sports career, and post-baseball work. See additional timelines documenting the life and work of [Rachel Robinson](#) and the history of the [Jackie Robinson Foundation](#).

["Baseball Integration Timeline" from Our Game blog by Major League Baseball historian John Thorn](#) – Expansive history of baseball integration (starting in 1820!) and Robinson's role within the larger story.

["Jackie Robinson," Negro Leagues Baseball eMuseum](#) – Information about Robinson's career with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1945 before signing with Branch Rickey and the Brooklyn Dodgers' baseball club in this database of player and team profiles documenting the history of the Negro Leagues.

["Jackie Robinson, circa 1946" from the \*Baseball History\* series, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum](#) – Details of Robinson's experience during his first spring training with the Dodgers organization in 1946, including unique source material such as scorecards, team programs, and color video of Robinson on the field.

["Hall of Famers: Jackie Robinson," Walter O'Malley Archive](#) – Robinson's sports accomplishments from college through his professional baseball career with the Brooklyn Dodgers, alongside fellow Dodgers Hall of Famers, O'Malley family history, and Dodgers team history. Click the "Did you know" red circle on this page for more facts.

[Jackie Robinson timeline, Los Angeles Dodgers](#) – A three-part timeline covering Robinson's life, sports career, and legacy as well as his lifetime and posthumous honors.

### Videos

[USC vs UCLA football game, December 9, 1939, USC Athletics](#) – Highlight reel of Jackie Robinson, #28 for University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), in action on the football field against University of Southern California (USC). (1:26 minutes)

["Jackie Robinson at UCLA, 1939" football footage, UCLA Film & Television Archive](#) – Robinson running, catching, and throwing a football in his UCLA uniform at practice, followed by broadcasted news footage of him playing in a game against USC.

[Jackie Robinson baseball highlight reel](#) – A montage of clips from Robinson's career with the Brooklyn Dodgers showcasing his signature slides, stolen bases, powerful hitting, and speed on the baseline. The reel's song is "Did You See Jackie Robinson Hit That Ball?" written by Buddy Johnson and performed by Count Basie and his orchestra (released in 1949). [Learn more about the history of the song at the Library of Congress.](#)

[Narrated excerpt featuring baseball footage and commentary](#) – Interview excerpts with Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, Eddie Stanky, and Rachel Robinson on Robinson's experience breaking the color line and reception by Dodgers teammates.

## Library and Archive Collections

### National Archives

[Educator Resource: Jackie Robinson, Civil Rights Advocate](#) –Select documents including letters Robinson wrote to presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Kennedy, and Johnson on civil rights, paired with primary source analysis tools and teaching activities.

[DocsTeach.org](#) –Photos, letters, and other documents from the National Archives collection, plus [ready-to-use teaching activities](#).

### Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

[Digital collections search: Jackie Robinson](#) –Letters, newspaper clippings, photos, ephemera, and more relating to Robinson’s baseball career.

[Wendell Smith Papers, including news articles and letters between Smith and Robinson](#) – An exploration of the relationship between Robinson and journalist Wendell Smith, who advocated for the reintegration of major league baseball and recommended Robinson to Branch Rickey as the right player to break the color line.

### Smithsonian

[Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) –Jackie Robinson materials from across the Smithsonian’s museums, archives, research centers, and publications.

[National Museum of African American History and Culture blog and news stories](#) –Stories about and inspired by Jackie Robinson, along with news stories that connect to his legacy.

[Library of Congress, Jackie Robinson Papers](#) – This finding aid describes the materials available at the Library of Congress including letters, notes, speeches, writings, baseball contracts, financial and legal records, military records, and more, which were donated by Rachel Robinson in 2001. Many of these materials are not yet digitized, but can be viewed in person.

[Digital Public Library of America](#) – Photographs, books, and other materials from Robinson’s life from the collections of thousands of libraries, archives, and museums across the United States with information about each item and links to full-size digital files on the websites of the owning institutions.

[Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library](#) –Digitized books include [Jackie Robinson: My Own Story](#) by Jackie Robinson with Wendell Smith (1948), [Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers](#) by Milton Shapiro (1957), and [Jackie Robinson: Baseball Hero](#) by Gene Schoor (1958).

[PBS LearningMedia, Jackie Robinson documentary by Ken Burns collection](#) - Clips from the 2016 documentary paired with discussion questions.

## Hear from others on Jackie Robinson’s legacy

*These selections represent just a few examples of individuals from different fields and eras talking about the significance of Robinson’s legacy.*

[Michelle Obama Introduces 42, The Obama White House, 2013](#) – Former first lady of the United States Michelle Obama introduces a panel on the movie *42* featuring Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford, and Rachel Robinson by discussing the importance of Jackie and Rachel Robinson’s contributions to civil rights history.

[Interview with Hank Aaron, The Dan Patrick Show, 2016](#) – Former MLB player Hank Aaron discusses conversations with Robinson, legacy building, and Robinson’s struggles reintegrating baseball.

[Interview with Dusty Baker, PBS NewsHour, 2016](#) – Former MLB player and current manager Dusty Baker discusses Jackie Robinson’s influence and the importance of passing down history.

[“How a Lovola Chicago legend’s career was spurred by Jackie Robinson” Yahoo! Sports, May 30, 2018](#) – Former NBA player Jerry Harkness remembers how Robinson inspired him to try out for his high school basketball team.

## Rachel Robinson

[“Breaking the Color Barrier in Baseball,” remarks delivered before the National Press Club, May 13, 1997](#) – Rachel Robinson discusses her and her husband’s experiences breaking the color barrier on the fiftieth anniversary of Jackie Robinson’s debut with the Dodgers and takes questions from the audience. Video and transcript available via CSPAN. (59 minutes)

[National Visionary Leadership Project biography and interview, 2005](#) – In this in-depth interview conducted by Dr. Camille Cosby, Rachel Robinson describes her childhood and family in Los Angeles, meeting Jack and their relationship, their involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, and her career as a nurse, businesswoman, and founder of the Jackie Robinson Foundation. (11 video clips)

[“Rachel Robinson on Her Late Husband Jackie’s Legacy, Race and Baseball,” Metro Focus, THIRTEEN, 2014](#) – Rachel Robinson comments on hers and Jackie’s experiences and the feature film *42*. (6:54 minutes)

[Rachel Robinson on Jackie Robinson, PBS, 2016](#) – Mrs. Robinson briefly describes her husband’s strengths and legacy in this preview for the 2016 Ken Burns documentary *Jackie Robinson*. (1:30 minutes)

## Resources for Children

[BrainPop: Jackie Robinson](#) – An animated video about Robinson, alongside teaching resources including quizzes, vocabulary, and supplemental sources and reading, designed for grades 4 and up. Also view [BrainPop, Jr. edition for grades K-3](#).

[Breaking Barriers Classroom Resources, Scholastic](#) –Ready-to-use lessons, digital interactives, and videos with a focus on Jackie Robinson’s values and character traits and empower students to overcome barriers in their lives using this Scholastic curriculum for grades 4-9.