

**Jackie's Bat**  
**by Zack, fifth grade writer**

One day I was flying to see my family in Pennsylvania. I brought my friends Spencer, Jake, and Jeff with me. We were flying on a 747 jet and I was assigned to row 17, seat B. I had heard that people who sit in my seat had disappeared into the past, but I thought it was a myth. How could such a silly thing like that be true?

The four of us sat reading *Baseball Today* when the plane hit some turbulence. We shut our eyes, a bit frightened. When we opened them, there he was sitting next to me, Jackie Robinson the Hall of Fame second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He had died in 1972 so this was very strange. I thought it was a dream. I pinched myself just to make sure it was not a dream. Then I saw my friends Spencer, Jake, and Jeff, and I was glad that they were still with me. However, it seemed to me that it must be the entire row of seats that made people disappear, or that plane that had taken us back in time. I asked if they knew what was going on. I was so scared because I had no idea what to say to Jackie Robinson.

I asked Jackie "Hey Jackie, you are so important, so can I learn more about you?"

Then he told my friends and me about himself. He told us that today would be the first game he would play on a professional baseball team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. We asked him what the date was, and he said, "Today is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1947."

Boy, had we really gone back in time. Jackie said he was frightened that many people would dislike the idea of a black man on a professional sports team. Spencer, Jake, Jeff, and I showed our support for him. We told him that he would make history and that many people will respect, honor, and look up to him.

He gave us four tickets to his first game when we arrived in New York. We couldn't wait to go. Could this really be happening to us? Why had we gone back in time to this date? Jackie Robinson told us that he was very nervous, so we assured him that he would do great, and we would be there cheering for him. We thanked him for the tickets and ran to the ball park. We were headed for the hot dog stand. Everyone knows there are no dogs better than ones from a ball park. We found our seats with our hot dogs in our hands. Our seats were right behind the dugout! This was a dream come true.

We were shocked to see all the signs of hatred towards Jackie. We were so sad and angry that people showed so much hatred. In our time, the year 2007, we know Jackie as a great African American that broke the color barrier in baseball. Without him, we would not be able to watch yet another famous baseball player, Barry Bonds, whom we were waiting for to hit his 756<sup>th</sup> homerun. What would Jackie Robinson think if he knew about Barry Bonds and the legend Jackie had become?

Jackie headed to second base. We could not believe it. People were throwing things at him. We even saw someone throw a cleat. There were signs of hatred around the stands. What were people thinking? Why would people do this to such a good and historical man?

We did not let the angry crowd stop us. Our cheering was the loudest in the park. We made sure people heard our cheering for Jackie. People started giving us dirty looks, but we did not care. There were others who showed support for him, and we were glad to see people cheering for him.

At the end of the game, Jackie and his girlfriend, Rachel, took us on a tour of the clubhouse. He thanked us for our support and said he could hear our cheers for him. This was a big game and mark in history. He was happy, even though others showed hatred, because he knew this was an impact on the world of baseball. We were talking with Jackie, telling him that he was our role model



and would be to so many other children. He gave me a signed baseball bat, and he gave my friends a signed baseball.

Jackie then said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." He said, "I hope I have done that for you boys." With that, we gave Jackie Robinson a hug goodbye.

\* \* \* \* \*

The flight attendant was shaking me, saying, "We have arrived at your destination, and thank you for flying South West Airlines."

I was in disbelief. What just happened? Was it a dream? I saw my friends standing up to exit the plane. They were each carrying a baseball. Down in my seat, I saw a baseball bat signed by Jackie Robinson. I asked the flight attendant what year it was.

She said, "Honey, you must have had quite a dream. It is 2007!"

I guess the myth was true.

---

### **The Teal Dress** **by Danielle, fifth grade writer**

I was at my aunt's house when, out of the blue, she said, "Let's go to Virginia City, Nevada, and learn about the history of the mining days." When we woke up the next morning, the car wouldn't start. We banged the engine, and that was the trick. It started.

When we got to the historic Virginia City located in Storey County, Nevada, there were a lot of things going on. There were free mine tours with skillful guides, and you could purchase gifts for your family at cool gift shops.

When my aunt and I were on the mine tour, we saw an old mine cart. We decided to take a closer look. As soon as we touched the rusty old cart, we were sucked into a time vortex, and it brought us to historic Virginia City in the year 1859 on June 11.

Things were so different and strange in this Virginia City. I mean, there were so many miners trying to accomplish the day's work. When we got into town, it was so crazy, and everything seemed like an old movie film. We were walking down the brown board sidewalk, and we saw a beautiful teal dress in the window. We stood looking through the window for a long time before my aunt said, "Let's go. There are things to do and places to see before the day is out."

My aunt and I wandered around, trying to compare this Virginia City to the one in the year 2007. The roads were paved in the future and the ones here were dusty and made of dirt. The buildings had candlelight instead of electricity, and there were a lot more people here. There were almost 29,000 people. As we were thinking about the future, my aunt and I looked at each other and said, "The future, are we ever going to get back to the future?"

I tried to explain to my aunt that we would get back, but we needed to find the mining cart. After that, we had a bite to eat at the Delta Saloon and that gave us the energy to find the cart.

The next morning we were caught in the big bonanza. The big bonanza was a big silver lode and brought millions of dollars to Nevada. With the locals excited about the silver, and with them rushing towards it, we really had to get out of there. When we were leaving, we saw the teal dress being thrown out! My aunt grabbed the dress as soon as the store keeper was gone.

We found the old mine cart and headed for it, but the cart wouldn't go back to the future. Something was wrong. When my aunt finally said, "I want to go home," the cart started shake and we were zapped back to the mine.

We caught up with the tour. I said, "I'm glad we're back in 2007, home and safe."

