



Diana Wortham Theatre

STUDY GUIDE

DO IT! *Before the show*

What does it cost to produce a play?

People

Number of actors, directors, stagehands, musicians

_____ x hours worked
_____ x hourly wage
_____ Subtotal

Theatre Rental

_____ Hours used
_____ x rent per hour
_____ Subtotal

Props, Costumes & Makeup

_____ Subtotal

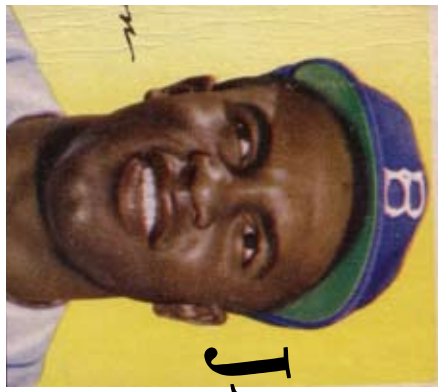
Printing

_____ Number of theatregoers
_____ x cost per playbill
_____ Subtotal

Miscellaneous Expenses

_____ Subtotal

Grand Total _____



JACKIE ROBINSON: A Game Apart

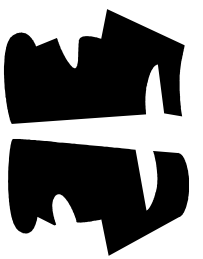
by Michael Wiley
Presented by Diana Wortham Theatre
In Partnership with the
Center for
Diversity Education



Funded in part by:



Did you know?
Sponsors and tickets sales provide part of the funds necessary to produce a play. Our thanks to YOU for your support of the arts!



GOING TO THE THEATRE

Before
the
show

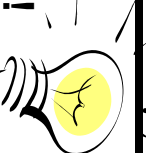
GOING TO THE THEATER

Watching a live performance is different than watching television or going to the movies. When you see a live performance you play a part too! Your role is an audience member. As an audience member you should obey the following instructions:

- When you arrive, follow an usher to your seat. Your group may be assigned to specific seats in the theater. Please stay in the seat you are given until the show is over.
- Most theaters do not allow cameras or recording devices. Please leave these at home or in your classroom.
- Food, drink and chewing gum are not allowed in the theater.
- When the theater lights dim, it means the show is about to begin. Please be quiet.
- Listen and watch carefully. Talking and making noise disturbs the performers and other audience members. Please hold your comments until after the performance. Of course when something is funny you may laugh. You may even cry when something is sad.
- Show your appreciation by clapping when the performance is over and when the performers bow.
- Stay seated after the show and an usher or your teacher will lead you out of the theater.

NOTE

This show will have a question and answer period following the performance. Please stay seated after the curtain call. If you have a question, raise your hand. Speak loudly and clearly when you are called on.



THINK ABOUT IT!

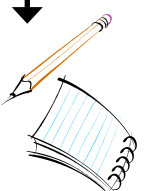
Read the quote below and think about the importance of theater throughout history.

“Through my singing and acting and speaking, I want to make freedom ring. Maybe I can touch people’s hearts better than their minds, with the common struggle of the common man.”

– Paul Robeson, American actor, singer, and activist (1898-1976)

Have you ever been inspired by something you experienced at the theater?

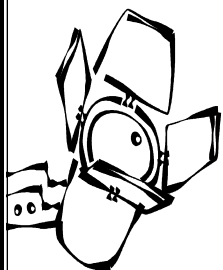
DO IT!



The audience will have the opportunity to speak with the actor after the show. Write down two questions you may ask him.

Before
the
show

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



CAST OF CHARACTERS

- o Jackie Robinson, national baseball hall of fame, broke baseball's color barrier
- o Mallie Robinson, Jackie's mother
- o Mack Robinson, Jackie's brother and Olympic track and field athlete
- o Isaac Murphy, Kentucky Derby Champion
- o Langston Hughes, famous American writer
- o Paul Robeson, famous American actor and musician
- o Fritz Pollard, American football star
- o Adolph Hitler, leader of Germany's Third Reich from 1934-1945
- o Mayor of Clarksville Tennessee, 1960
- o Howard Cosell, sport's announcer
- o Branch Rickey, President of Brooklyn Dodgers (1940s)
- o Charley Thomas, Ohio Wesleyan baseball player

SETTING

Modern Day

SYNOPSIS

Jackie Robinson was an athlete who pushed the color barrier to its breaking point when he became the first African American to play America's favorite game for a major league team. Baseball fans and players reacted to Robinson with everything from unbridled enthusiasm evident in newspaper headlines to wariness and open hostility expressed in bean ball pitches and death threats.

A GAME APART provides a glimpse of the ghost of a bygone era of separate and unequal locker rooms, of whites only hotels, and of restaurants with only a back door for Colored Athletes to enter. Witness the hopeless humiliation of a star player and a second hand citizen. Learn about role models of the outfield, the backcourt, the track, the ring, the blacktop, and the mud. A GAME APART is a powerful lesson of courage through dedication, perseverance, and leadership.

After
the
show

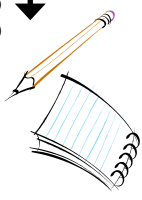


THINK ABOUT IT!

When actors play many different roles or characters, it is called

doubling. How did you see doubling being used in this one man show? What strategies did the actor use to communicate that he was changing characters? Can you think of some different ways the actor could have accomplished this task?

DO IT!



The style of this play is a **documentary.** What root word can you find in the word documentary? Write your own definition of the word. Then, look it up in a dictionary, and compare your definition with what you find.

What specific written materials do you think were used to create the script for this play?

A **Documentary** is a type of **genre** for plays, movies, books, and other texts. Name some other genres. What is your favorite genre?

THEATRE COLLABORATORS



When we see a show, we often think only of the performers on stage. However, many people come together to make a performance happen. . . Read the list of theatre collaborators and answer the discussion questions with a partner.

Playwright – writes the play

Director – helps the performers understand their roles and tells them where to move on stage. The director also collaborates with designers to create the entire picture you see on stage.

Costume Designer – imagines and designs the clothing and other items worn by the performers on stage

Lighting Designer – imagines and creates the lights of a performance to enhance mood and setting

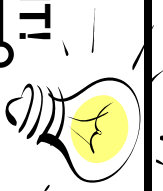
Sound Designer – imagines and creates music and other sound effects which help tell the story of the play

Set Designer – makes a map of each set and its changes

Props – items held or used by the actors on stage that help tell the story

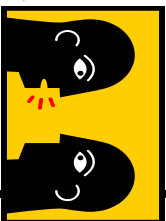
Gels – pieces of plastic that are used in stage lights to change their color

THINK ABOUT IT!



Why is changing the color of lights important for the mood in a scene? If you were a character in the play, what color gel would you choose for your spotlight? Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. If you were to work in the theater business, which theater collaborator would you rather be?
2. Which job seems most challenging? Why?

SEE THE LANGUAGE OF DRAMA

Langston Hughes, a hero of the Harlem Renaissance, was an important American writer and thinker. His character in the play quoted an excerpt from one of his poems, "I, Too". Hughes wrote this poem in 1922 after he was denied passage on a ship because of his skin color. "I, too" is a reflection on Walt Whitman's famous poem "I Hear America Singing" published in 1900. Read the two poems below and use the questions that follow for a class discussion.



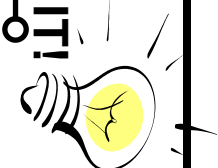
I Hear America Singing by Walt Whitman

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear:
Those of mechanics – each one singing his, as it should be,
blithe and strong;
The carpenter singing his, as he measures his plank or
beam,
The mason singing his, as he makes ready for work, or
leaves off work;
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat – the
deckhand singing on the steamboat deck;
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench – the hatter
singing as he
stands;
The wood cutter's song – the ploughboy's on his way in the
morning, or at noon intermission, or at sundown;
The delicious singing of the mother – or of the young wife
at work – or of the girl sewing or washing –
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else;
The day what belongs to the day – at night, the party of
young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing, with open mouths, their strong melodious songs.

I, Too by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.
Tomorrow,
I'll sit at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –
I, too, am America.

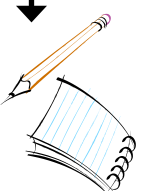
THINK ABOUT IT!



Discussion Questions:

1. What the general mood of Walt Whitman's poem?
2. What are some feelings that Hughes is expressing in his poem?
3. When is "tomorrow" in line 8 of "I, Too"?
4. What clues can you find in "I Hear America Singing" that illustrate it was written over 100 years ago?
5. Who is singing in America now?

DO IT!



Write your own poem that describes modern America. Model it after one of the two poems to the left.

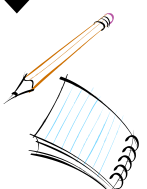
JACKIE ROBINSON, NOT JUST A BASEBALL LEGEND

Jack Roosevelt Robinson was an exceptional athlete, activist, and family member. While in college at UCLA he was the first to letter in four sports, excelling in football, baseball, basketball, and track and field. He joined a professional football team before finishing his last year of school to earn money for his mother. The following year he was drafted into the Army to fight in WWII. Because of the influence of boxer Joe Lewis to set up an African American officer training school, Jackie was able to become a lieutenant. When he was discharged, Robinson played baseball in the Negro League, but was soon asked to join the Brooklyn Dodgers by the team's owner Branch Ricky. Accepting the position was a great risk for Jackie, because he would be the first African American player in the major leagues since the late 1800s, when Jim Crow laws began. Mr. Ricky knew that, despite his history of bravely standing up for his rights, Jackie would be strong enough to resist violence when people would mistreat him. In 1947, his first year, Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier and was named Rookie of the Year for his outstanding performance. After just two years with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Jackie won the National League MVP award and the batting title. It was a wonder that someone could accomplish so much while dealing with insults from fans and teammates, foul play by competitors, and death threats from the public. Eventually, Jackie won respect and became an inspiration and a symbol of opportunity for all African Americans. The baseball star spoke out against unfair treatment for African Americans throughout his career, and stayed involved in the Civil Rights movement after his retirement from the game.

In his 10 year baseball career, Jackie Robinson played in 6 World Series', stole home 19 times, and compiled a lifetime batting average of .311!

1. Which four varsity sports did Jackie Robinson play at UNCA?
2. What National League baseball team did Jackie Robinson join when he integrated baseball?
3. Name one award earned by Jackie Robinson during his baseball career.

DO IT!



In 1949, Jackie Robinson won the National League batting title with a batting average of .342.

1. Write this number out in word form.
2. What is this number if expressed as a percent instead of a decimal?

3. The formula to calculate batting average is

Hits _____ = Batting Average
(in decimal form)

At Bats

If you went to bat 8 times in one game and had 4 hits in all, what would your average be for the game?

4. CHALLENGE! In 1949, Jackie Robinson had 593 At Bats. How many hits did he have that year?

NOW THAT'S CHARACTER!



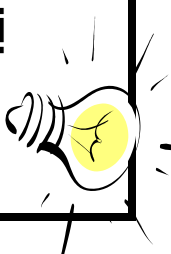
Jackie Robinson at UCLA

"When Branch Rickey asked Jackie Robinson to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, he knew that Jackie would need display strong character. He had enough self control to not fight back when people tested him with threats, insults, and foul play. Jackie had to rise above the racial hatred in order to successfully integrate the game. He used his energy, instead, to become one of the best baseball players of his time. His character and his talent eventually helped him to earn the respect of teammates, fans, and the competition. After becoming an American hero, he was able to speak out for the rights of all African Americans.

Isaac Murphy, the three time Kentucky derby champion in the late 1800s, told a story in the play about a time when we was asked to lose a race on purpose for a large group of gamblers.

"I'd rather have a whole heap a' pride than a whole heap a' change", he said about refusing the offer and going on to win the race.

THINK ABOUT IT!



Think of a time when you felt proud of yourself for using self control and courage to turn a bad situation into something positive. Partner with someone in class and share your stories with one another.

REFLECTION

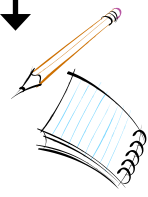


Jackie Robinson gave credit to his mother, his minister, and his brother Mack for helping him stay out of trouble and on the right track. Are there adults in your life who influence you to be the best you can be? Make a list of those people below. Make it a goal this week to say "thank you" to these people for being positive role models.

Stars of The Court, The Stage, and The Field.



DO IT!



Many African American heroes excelled in their talents despite the nation's Jim Crow craze. Champion athletes were gaining respect and international acknowledgement in a wide variety of sports. Writers, performers, musicians, and thinkers were making names for themselves as they excelled above other Americans who were offered more opportunities.

In the time between the end of World War I and the Great Depression, there was a cultural and artistic explosion in Harlem as many African Americans relocated to New York in search of more opportunity. The time period was named The Harlem Renaissance.

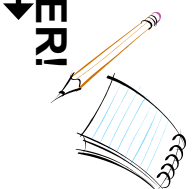
Write the number of each statement on the following page above the picture it describes.

CONTINUED ACTIVITY

Stars of The Court, The Field, The Mud, The Stage, and The Page.

1. I road in my first Kentucky Derby when I was fifteen, and I went on to be the first person to win three Kentucky Derbies. I won 44% of my races, a record which has never been broken. My name is Isaac Murphy.
2. I was a true Renaissance Man. I earned an academic scholarship to Rutgers University, becoming the third African American student there in history and graduated as class valedictorian in 1919. I was a two-time All American football player and also excelled in baseball, basketball, and track. I became a world famous actor and singer on the stage and the screen. My name is Paul Robeson.
3. I have always loved music, and when I was nine years old, I would sing on the street corners for coins. I eventually became one of the most popular blues singers of the 1920's. With my first recording, I became the most successful African American performing artist of my time. My name is Bessie Smith.
4. I was a cornerstone of the National Football league. I was an All American player at Brown University and went on lead my first professional team, the Akron Pros, in rushing, scoring, and punt returns while I was serving at the head coach. My name is Fritz Pollard.
5. I grew up in Eatonville, Florida, the first incorporated African American community in America. I attended Howard University, then moved to New York to work with other creative people of my time. I was considered an authority on Black culture during the Harlem Renaissance as a famous novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist. My name is Zora Neale Hurston.
6. My mother taught me how to play piano. When I was a teenager, I studied with New York musicians in "stride style" piano and toured with bands around the country. My big band music of the jazz swing era gained popularity during the Harlem Renaissance and I became one of the leading musicians of my time. My name is Count Basie.
7. In college, I broke three world records and tied a fourth in a single track meet, although I was made to use "black-only" hotels and restaurants when I traveled with the team. I was the first person in American history to win four gold medals for Track and Field in a single Olympics – the 1936 games in Hitler's Nazi Germany. My name is Jessie Owens
8. I was the first African American to win the French Open, the US Open, and Wimbledon. In 1957 and 1958, the Associated Press named me Female Athlete of the Year. I opened the door for other African Americans to become tennis stars. Later in my career, I joined the ladies professional golf tour. My name is Althea Gibson.

GOING FURTHER!



Choose one of these famous Americans, and research about their lives in books and on the internet. Present the information you find to your class.



AT HOME

Dear Parents,

Recently, your student attended a performance of **JACKIE ROBINSON: A GAME APART**. Award winning actor, Mike Wiley, created a powerful picture of life for African Americans under Jim Crow laws. You student learned about the landmark successes of Jackie Robinson and other famous Americans despite their treatment as second class citizens in this production about courage, dedication, and leadership.

Prior to attendance, teachers reviewed proper theatre etiquette with students and gave some background information about the history of segregation in the United States. Aside from the many benefits for students of simply experiencing theater, the material addressed in this play supported many goals in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

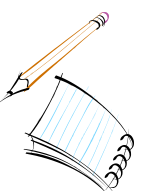
As a parent, you are your child's best teacher. They can also teach you through their experiences. Ask your student about the play they attended and read through this booklet. Share some experiences that you or other family members had during the time of desegregation. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about important history.

Thank you for your participation in the Diana Wortham Theatre for Young Audiences.

Sincerely,

The Diana Wortham Theatre
The Center for Diversity Education

DO IT!



A reviewer writes an opinion of the actors, sets, and director for a newspaper or magazine. Write your review of the play for your family.
