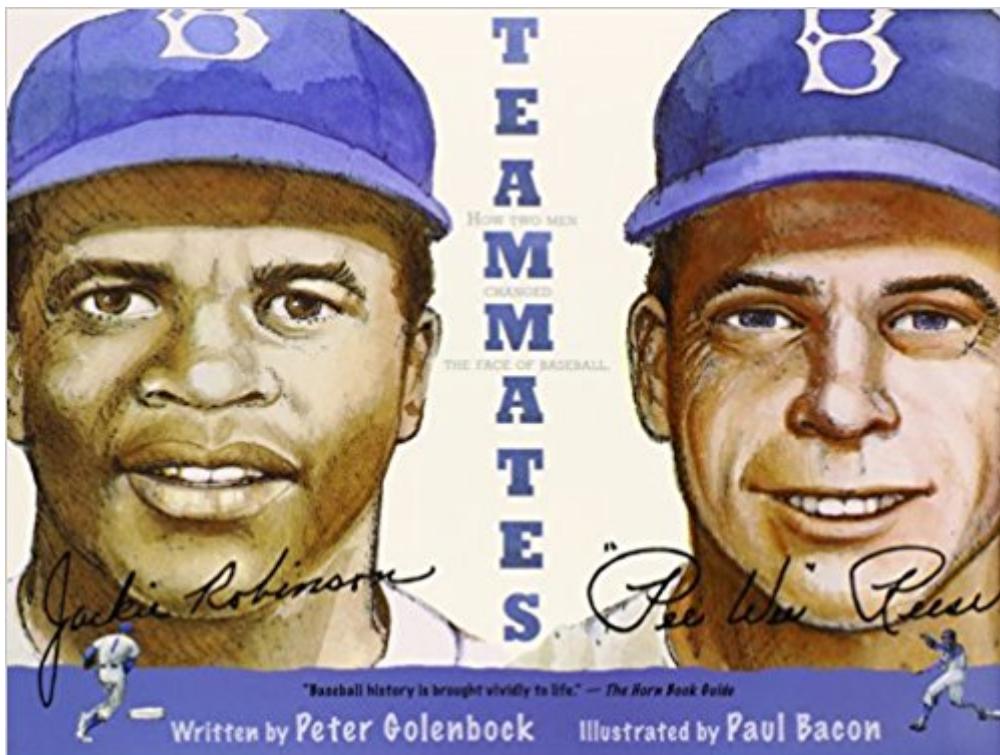


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Teammates



Synopsis

This is the moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a Major League baseball team when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1940s, and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, Pee Wee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate. Illustrated with a blend of historic photographs and eloquent watercolors by Paul Bacon.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 17, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152842861

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.1 x 8.4 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 202 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,697 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation #102 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #115 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult

Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Enhanced by an unusual combination of archival photographs and vigorous illustrations, this thoughtful, noteworthy book chronicles Jackie Robinson's early days with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

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Kindergarten-Grade 6-- Golenbock has taken a single moment of baseball history, set it in its social context, and created a simple and moving tribute to courage and brotherhood. While other biographies of Robinson, and Robinson himself in *I Never Had It Made* (Putnam, 1972; o.p.), set the incident in Boston, Golenbock places it in Cincinnati, near Reese's Kentucky home. The event occurred during Jackie Robinson's first season with the Dodgers. Listening to the hatred that spilled out of the stands, Pee Wee Reese left his position at shortstop, walked over to Robinson at first

base, put his around Robinson's shoulder, chatted for a few moments, and then returned to his position. The crowd was stunned into silence. Bacon has illustrated the book with an effective blend of photographs and drawings. Golenbock briefly but clearly describes the background of Robinson's entry into the National League, as well as Reese's background as a southerner and as the player with the most to fear if Robinson were successful--both men were shortstops (although Robinson would ultimately play second base). There have been several recent books about Robinson for young readers, such as David Adler's *Jackie Robinson: He Was the First* (Holiday, 1989) and Jim O'Connor's *Jackie Robinson and the Story of All-Black Baseball* (Random, 1989), but none of them have the style or dramatic impact of Golenbock and Bacon's work. This is a wonderful and important story, beautifully presented, but the geographic confusion is disturbing. --Elaine Fort Weischedel, Turner Free Library, Randolph, MACopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Based on past efforts from David Halberstam regarding baseball books (Summer of '49 and October '64) I knew I was in for a treat with his latest effort regarding the lives of past Hub Hose Heroes Doerr, DiMaggio, Pesky, and Williams. Halberstam provides the reader with both the past and present lives of this foursome and shows us that the years haven't been entirely kind to these teammates and baseball icons. I found the author's explanation regarding Enos Slaughter's so-called "mad dash" to home in the 1946 World Series to be especially interesting. DiMaggio had to leave the game due to a leg injury and was replaced by Leon Culberson. From the dugout DiMaggio had signaled Culberson to move towards left center prior to the pitch, as Culberson took a few grudging steps towards left center. With Slaughter on first and Harry Walker batting, Slaughter took off with the pitch as Harry "The Hat" lined the ball to left center. Due to the terrible field conditions Culberson played the ball tentatively and then gave a lob throw towards shortstop John Pesky as Slaughter continued his epic flight around the bases. Pesky has often been blamed for holding the ball as Slaughter rounded third, but DiMaggio disputed this. Slaughter, himself, said he never would have tried to score if DiMaggio was in center field. Pesky never tried to point any fingers at any other teammates upon the advice he received from veteran pitcher Bill Posedel in his minor league years. The author does a wonderful job in bringing out the various personalities of the four men through anecdotes from their past and present lives. If you are of this era yourself you will find this book a must to own whether you're a Red Sox fan or not. I don't remember Dominic DiMaggio and Bobby Doerr from their playing days, although I certainly am aware of them. My memories of John Pesky are as a Tiger and Williams, of course, continued playing through 1960. If

you are interested in baseball history this book will be a most enjoyable read for you.

This is a very warm and refreshing book about four ball players from the greatest period in Red Sox history, Ted Williams, Bobby Doer, Dom DiMaggio and Johnny Pesky. This book is not only about the undying friendship of four ball players, two of which are in the hall of fame and the other two should be, but also about baseball when teammates stayed on the same team virtually for their entire career. They not only shared the diamond but a cab after a game and enjoyed each other's company even after the season. Pesky and DiMaggio with friend Flavin drive down to visit a dying Williams for there last meeting. During their trip, they relive their careers with the Red Sox, but also the Red Sox franchise at its peak. The author also serves this as an opportunity to provide a biography of each player. The perfectionist and gifted Williams, the scrappy and undying baseball man Pesky, the nice guy and steady star player Doer and the fascinating and extremely intelligent DiMaggio who was just as successful after he left baseball as he was when he played. Great breakdown of what happened in that fatal World Series game in 1946 that was set up actually by DiMaggio's clutch hit and then pulled hamstring. Interesting that Williams was such a perfectionist not only in baseball and fishing but anything in life such as cutting a grapefruit. Very heart-warming story that flows so easy you can read the book in a long lazy afternoon.

I like David Halberstam's work and have read almost all his work. He has a unique way of defining historical characters--in this case baseball players--in a human and personal context. I have read several books on Ted Williams. My grandfather often told stories about seeing Dom DiMaggio play--he was a very good hitter and outfielder. This is the story of the friendship shared by four teammates on the Boston Red Sox in the 1940's. Professional ballplayers in those days did not make huge salaries--even the great Ted Williams did not earn what marginal players earn today. They played because they were paid, of course but also because they loved playing. Part of the experience was friendships among teammates. This particular group shared their friendship for the remainder of their lives. I have often read about Williams being aloof and demanding as a person--not really a nice guy, even if he was an American icon. It was thus interesting to learn how his teammates managed their relationship with him--allowing his criticism; knowing it was part of being his friend; knowing it was not really personal. I read this book over three nights while on a business trip. I could not put the book down and I hated to get to the end. Interesting and real material about people whose like don't really exist anymore.

This is a wonderful, even personal book by David Halberstam, the late journalist who wrote very meaty historical works as well as lovely and light true baseball and sports books such as this one. The star of Teammates is Ted Williams, the greatest Red Sox of all, who was at the center of the four-man friendship that is depicted here— the other three being Bobby Doerr, Johnny Pesky, and Dom DiMaggio, all former Red Sox players (and exalted in their own right; Doerr, like Williams, is in the National Baseball Hall of Fame) who played with Ted in the late '40s and '50s and became close buddies. He seldom inserts himself personally into the story, but Halberstam, a real lover of the game, is present as well in this warmly told, sentimental but not cloyingly sentimental tale of friendship and age and baseball.

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