

Read the story.

JACKIE ROBINSON

As a baseball player, Jackie Robinson was the **best** base runner of his time and also the first African-American baseball player in the big leagues in this century. In 1947, ¹**he** was a rookie in baseball who topped the sports world. Someone once said, "Jackie Robinson is a **fiery** competitor, he did not just come to play, he came to beat you!"

During spring training, half a dozen Dodgers players agreed that ²**they** would not play if he joined the team but soon most of Dodgers players accepted Robinson when they realised that he was a good player and was helping ³**them** to win the games.

Opponents were not so friendly and ⁴**they** made it as tough as they could for the black pioneer. A few players tried to trip Robinson and he was hit by the baseball nine times. Other players and many baseball fans hated him too. Despite the great pressure he faced, Robinson had a good season. Fans, black and white **flocked** to see Jackie Robinson play. He became a hero for the black community.

The Dodgers won the National league that year. Robinson was named National League Rookie of the Year. Robinson's success in the 1947 season paved the way for other black baseball players. From 1949 to 1952, Jackie Robinson was one of the three best players in baseball. ⁵**His performance** in 1949 earned him the league's Most Valuable Player award.

Jackie Robinson **retired** from baseball in 1957. Five years later, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He became an outspoken leader in the fight for equality for black people. Jackie Robinson have proved himself a hero as the baseball field as well as on human right for black people.

Look at the words which are numbered in the passage. What does each word refer to? Write the answer in the spaces provided.

E.g. A few players tried to trip Robinson and he was hit by the baseball nine times.
he – Jackie Robinson

1. ¹**he** – _____
2. ²**they** – _____
3. ³**them** – _____
4. ⁴**they** – _____
5. ⁵**His** – _____

Underline the correct meaning of the word as it is used in the passage.

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|-----|----------------------|-------|---|
| 6. | 'best' | means | a. excellent
b. least
c. not good
d. worst |
| 7. | 'fiery' | means | a. aggressive
b. calm
c. cool
d. gentle |
| 8. | 'flocked' | means | a. divided
b. gathered
c. separated
d. spread |
| 9 | 'performance' | means | a. achievement
b. failure
c. loss interest
d. not successful |
| 10. | 'retired' | means | a. active
b. stop working
c. take leave
d. working |