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Dear Gina De Angelis,

I loved your book, *Jackie Robinson*, it was like I was there watching Jackie play baseball and watching what happened in his life. Jackie and I are a lot alike as we both loved baseball and are pretty talented in sports. We both like football, baseball, and track. We both played short stop for our baseball teams.

Something I never noticed before was the racial stuff that happened back then in baseball and in life. Unfortunately, I've witnessed racial discrimination in my life as my friend who is also black was asked to leave a store and we felt it was because he was of a different color. It upset and disgusted me. I didn't think it was fair just because of race that people didn't like Jackie, and called him names and stuff. He is just a regular person just like everybody else.

As I read this book the whole time I was wondering why people hate blacks and different races. The reason I think they hate people that are different than themselves is that they are fearful or afraid of someone that is different than them.

Something that surprised me in this book that happened to Jackie Robinson is that once the coach of Philadelphia, Ben Chapman paid all of this players extra money to call Jackie all the worst racial names. A lot of times other teams in games would bean Jackie on purpose or spike him with their cleats. Something amazing that I thought Jackie did is that he stole 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> base and home and he was telling the pitcher the whole time that he was going to steal the base. Before that happened, the pitcher beamed him and got him angry.

I thought it stunk when Jackie died of diabetes. But I was really happy when he made it to the hall of fame and they retired his baseball number throughout the whole league so no one else could use it in his honor. Thank you, Gina De Angelis, for writing this important biography about Jackie's life.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kirby

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