



Thank You, Jackie Robinson

Barbara Cohen , Richard Cuffari (Illustrator)

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Ten-year-old Sam Green shares a special friendship with an older man named Davy; both love the Dodgers. When Davy suffers a heart attack and lies dying in the hospital, Jackie Robinson gives Sam an autographed baseball for Davy. But even this wonderful gift cannot prevent Davy from dying.

Thank You, Jackie Robinson Details

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Jackson says

One of my favorites from my childhood still holds up years later. As a kid, I was drawn to this book because of baseball, but it stuck with me because of how it handles loneliness, prejudice, friendship, and loss. Barbara Cohen was masterful in how she wrote for children on these topics without talking down to them.

Miss Amanda says

gr 3-5? 125 pgs

1950s, Winterhill, NJ. Sam had never found anyone else who was as obsessed with the Brooklyn Dodgers as he was until he met Davy. He met Davy when he became the cook at his mother's inn. Together with Davy's daughter and her husband, they go and watch the Dodgers play. When Davy gets sick, Sam is determined to do something to cheer him up.

Great story for baseball lovers.

Cole83 says

im reading it right now

Jennifer Hughes says

Good book, but definitely needs to be read with an adult. This was written in a different era and some of the words and language used needs to be discussed with children.

Some sad parts dealing with death and saying good-bye when we're not ready.

Judy Birch says

Every now and then I pick up a kid's book that looks lonely on the shelf. This one, written back in 74, with one of those dated three color covers appealed to me anyway. Speaks to my love of baseball and anything 1940s. When Sammy makes his first trip to Ebbets Field, he says "Far below me the grass was greener than any grass I had ever seen." I remember thinking that the first time I went to Fenway, and I'm still taken aback by the vivid colors every time I go. This is a good read about a Jewish kid obsessed with the Dodgers and his friendship with the cook at his mother's inn, an older black man who shares the same passion.

Dianna Weglarz says

Love the historical perspective. Great relationship between Davy and Sam.

Marilyn says

That was so sad! I felt like crying because, well he dies!!!!!!
That is just sad. And they were such good friends!
Fiction or not, it's still really sad and painful to lose a friend
(Ps I did not want to put any spoilers!)

Jennifer says

This is an exemplary book about the friendship between a young boy and an old man and how Jackie Robinson made a difference to both of them. The book is set in the era when Jackie Robinson was just hired as the first black baseball player in the major league. The friendship is formed between Sammy, a young, introverted Jewish boy and Davy, an old black man who is hired as a cook for his mom's inn. Their friendship at the beginning is based upon their mutual love for baseball, the Brooklyn Dodgers, and Jackie Robinson. Their friendship blossoms into one based upon mutual respect and love for one another. Sammy has lost his father and has no good male role model. He's sustaining himself on egg salad sandwiches and his photographic knowledge of every Dodger's game. Davy comes along and becomes the friend Sammy needed and, more importantly, the role model he required so desperately. Color never plays a role in Sammy's and Davy's friendship and this theme sends a strong message to the young reader of this fantastic book. It is a great book with a great life lesson about friendship and tolerance. :)

Katie says

really good so far i think it is touching

Heather says

Sam is shy and has a hard time making friends. No one seems to appreciate Sam's one gift: he can recite the play-by-play for every game the Dodgers have played in recent history. Then Davy comes to work at Sam's mother's inn. Finally Sam has someone to share his love of the Dodgers with. This is the story of how Sam, a ten-year-old Jewish kid, got to be best friends with a sixty-year old negro, and in the process met Jackie Robinson.

A great tie-in to character counts and the fairness pillar.

Andrea says

Poignant story about a ten-year old boy who befriends a sixty-year-old black man who's hired as the cook at his mother's inn. They both share a passion for the Brooklyn Dodgers--which brings together a beautiful story of an unlikely friendship that is wonderful to witness as the reader!

M says

Beautiful friendship between a young Jewish boy and an older African American male, hired as help to work for the young lad's mother. They share a common interest in baseball.

Gina says

Thank you, Jackie Robinson tells about the story of a ten-year old boy, Sam Green, who befriends a sixty-year-old black man Davy who's hired as the cook at his mother's inn. Both share a passion for the Brooklyn Dodgers, which brings together a beautiful story of an unlikely friendship that is wonderful. Davy is soon to die and his love for baseball is indescribable. One day Sam gets an autographed signed baseball by legendary baseball player, Jackie Robinson. Although, Davy was soon to die Sam wanted to make Davy's last days memorable. For a literacy lesson, I would have students to write a letter to someone that has done something special and what made it special?
