Movie Questions for “42” (The True Story of Jackie Robinson)

Name_________________________________
Date______________________ Period____

As you watch the movie, answer the following questions.

1. Early on in the film, Branch Rickey (owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers) has a conversation with Jackie Robinson about playing baseball in the Dodgers’ organization. Mr. Rickey asks Jackie Robinson if he has the “guts” not to fight back. What does he mean by this? Why does he asks Jackie Robinson to do this?

2. Throughout the movie, Wendell Smith (the African American reporter) chronicles Jackie Robinson’s first season in Major League Baseball. Why does he have such a personal stake in the success of Jackie Robinson? (Think about how he is treated as a reporter.)

3. When Jackie Robinson finally joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, how do his teammates react?

(Continued on the Back)
4. Throughout his first season in the Major Leagues, Jackie Robinson and his wife (Rachel) endured many forms of discrimination and racism. They also received many threats of violence and bodily harm. Give two examples of this from the film.

5. About midway through the film, Jackie’s teammates have a change in attitude and begin to defend him. Why do you think they had this change in attitude?

6. Towards the end of the film, the Brooklyn Dodgers play a game near Pee Wee Reese’s hometown. Before the game starts, Pee Wee Reese goes over to Jackie Robinson and puts his arm around him and they have a conversation. Why does Reese do this? What does he say to Jackie Robinson?

(The End)