***Gifted and Talented Language Arts 7A***

***Unit 1: Reading Information Text Sample Work***

***Level Two: Explain How the Article “How Jackie Robinson Change Baseball” Helped You Expand Your Understanding of a Particular Era in Sports***

***By Shandilya Nookala***

“How Jackie Robinson Changed Baseball” helped me to expand my understanding of an era in sports where racism was widespread. There are two main central ideas: the first is “Jackie Robinson was an exceptional athlete who prevailed during times that were hard for African Americans,” and the second is “Jackie Robinson fueled the Civil Rights Movement and fought racism.”

The author introduced the central idea of Jackie Robinson being a successful athlete despite the odds in the first paragraph itself. The author first compares and contrasts the 1930s to modern times.

He or she does this by saying that people of color are not uncommon to see on the baseball field. However, before the Civil Rights Movement, he or she says that “baseball has not always been as diverse.” This helps me understand that Jackie Robinson was probably an athlete during an era where society was turned against African Americans.

The section under the subheading “Early Athletic Success” tells us that Jackie Robinson initially lived in poverty, but continued to play sports in school, breaking barriers by being one of the minority of African Americans to be in football, basketball, track, and baseball. This is a supporting detail to the central idea that “Jackie Robinson was a successful athlete despite the mainly white attitudes of the time.”

The section under the subheading “Fighting Racism” tells us that Jackie Robinson not only excelled in sports, but he also stood up for his friends’, peers’, and his own rights. For example, he argued with a police officer over the detention of one of his black friends, and he was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of the bus while serving in the army. This is a supporting to the central idea that “Jackie Robinson fueled the Civil Rights Movement and fought racism.”

The section under the subheading “A Negro Player With Guts” tells us that Jackie Robinson faced discrimination from his teammates and even from the players in other teams. However, at the advice of the manager of the team, he stayed quiet, and bore all the insults from his white peers and fans. Because of this, his teammates gradually accepted him into the team. This supports the central idea that “Jackie Robinson fueled the Civil Rights Movement and fought racism.”

The section under the subheading “Major Success” tells us all the major successes and awards that Jackie Robinson received. For example, with his help, the Dodgers won the World Series in 1955. However, at age 36, Robinson retired from baseball because of his diabetes and became the executive of a coffee company. This helps to support the central idea that “Jackie Robinson was an exceptional athlete who prevailed during times that were hard for African Americans.”

The section under the subheading “A Legendary Impact” tells how Jackie Robinson influenced both baseball and African Americans fighting for Civil Rights. It supports the central idea that “Jackie Robinson was an exceptional athlete who prevailed during times that were hard for African Americans.”