

Go-Along Page 1

The Verb Is the Word

As you listen to passages from *Testing the Ice*, write down action verbs you hear. Then write the feeling those verbs create.

Action Verbs in Passage 1:

The Feeling the Verbs Create:

Action Verbs in Passage 2:

The Feeling the Verbs Create:

Write-On Sheet 1

Remembering Robinson

Write a short, informational piece that explains how both Jackie Robinson's baseball career and his willingness to "test the ice" on that winter day make him a person to admire. Include action verbs to make your piece lively and engaging as well as informative.

THINK ABOUT

- Have I used action words?
- Did I stretch to get a better word—*scurry* rather than *run*?
- Do my verbs give my writing punch and pizzazz?
- Did I avoid *is, am, was, were, be, being, and been* whenever I could?

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Literary Techniques

Simile: a comparison of one thing to another thing of a different kind, using *like* or *as*

Metaphor: a word or phrase for one thing that is used to refer to another thing to show or suggest they are similar

Personification: human qualities given to animals, objects, or ideas

Alliteration: the occurrence of the same letter sound in words that are next to or close to one another in a phrase or sentence

Onomatopoeia: a word named for its association with a sound it makes (e.g., *cuckoo*, *sizzle*)

Match a literary technique to each of the passages below from *Testing the Ice*.

PASSAGE	LITERARY TECHNIQUE
BOOOOOM!	
... the ice was going to open up and swallow him!	
hissed	
I thought of the doors opening to other black players after me, and how the color barrier of baseball would be shattered.	
... barrier of baseball	
The lake howled and moaned throughout the night.	
... funny faces and hurry-up hand signs	
But he felt his way along an untried path—like a blind man tapping for clues.	

Write-On Sheet 2

Jackie Q & A

You're a neighborhood friend of Jackie Robinson's. Think about questions you have for him. Write at least four questions and provide the answers, using information from *Testing the Ice* and/or other resources. Spice up your questions and answers with literary techniques!

THINK ABOUT

- Did I try to use words that sound "just right"?
- Did I try hyphenating several shorter words to make an interesting-sounding new word?
- Did I try putting together words with the same sound?
- Did I read my piece aloud to find at least one or two moments I love?

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Can You See It?

Choose five objects from *Testing the Ice* and describe them using specific and accurate words. Make the reader visualize each object in his or her mind. See the example below.

OBJECT	DESCRIPTION
shovel	Wooden handle with a broad, flat-bottom edge, great for scooping up snow and ice to clear the way.

Write-On Sheet 3

Meet Jackie Robinson

Imagine you are introducing Jackie Robinson to people who may never have heard of him or his remarkable life. Explain what is important to know about him from what you've learned in *Testing the Ice* and your own research and experiences. The words you choose should be specific and accurate!

THINK ABOUT

- Have I used nouns and modifiers that help the reader see a picture?
- Did I avoid using words that might confuse the reader?
- Did I try a new word and, if so, check to make sure I used it correctly?
- Are these the best words that can be used?

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A Deeper Way to Say

Read the words in column one, think about their meanings, and in column two use each one (or a form of each one) in a meaningful sentence that could've been part of *Testing the Ice*.

WORD	MEANINGFUL SENTENCE
deny	Just because of the color of their skin, African Americans were <u>denied</u> entry into Major League Baseball—until Jackie Robinson came along!
change	
struggle	
cheer	
courage	

Write-On Sheet 4

Fearfully First

Consider the fears Jackie Robinson might have had as the first African American player to enter Major League Baseball and what it must have taken to overcome them. Use words that deepen the meaning, including an explanation of why his story stills matters today.

THINK ABOUT

- Did I think carefully about the words I chose?
- Have I tried to avoid repeating words?
- Will my words capture the reader's imagination?
- Have I found the best way to express myself?