

Listening Closely: “This I Believe: Free Minds and Hearts at Work” Note-catcher

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Source: “This I Believe: Free Minds and Hearts at Work” by Jackie Robinson

What do you OBSERVE/HEAR?

- Jackie experienced a new emotion when listening to the National Anthem at the 1947 World Series.
- He felt included in Major League Baseball.
- He played an exhibition game in Georgia a year later.
- It was the first time blacks and whites played baseball together in Atlanta.
- Jackie thought what he has always believed in came true.
- He believed that imperfections are human.
- When humans are given space and time, these imperfections start to slowly disappear.
- Humans are not perfect.
- We need to deal with stumbling blocks and prejudices.
- Obstacles Jackie faced made him fight harder.
- Even though the obstacles were hard, his strong belief that he had a chance kept him going.
- He knew he had a chance because he lived in a free society.
- His fight wasn’t against something he could not change.
- People with the same goals worked around him so there was a chance of improvement.
- He can tell people that they won’t face the same problems because others before fought against them.
- Progress has to happen. There’s a chance for change for everyone.
- Free people are always changing.
- Not everyone can succeed, because that would be perfection.
- But, if we put our past thinking behind us, we can cause great change.
- Jackie believes in the human race, the warm heart, integrity, the goodness of a

free society.

- *Society will be good as long as people are willing to fight for it, and to fight against imperfections.*

- *Jackie's fight was against the color barrier of baseball.*
- *This was where he saw imperfection and what he could fight against.*
- *He knew it wouldn't be a losing fight because it took place in a free society.*
- *Jackie believes his faith in God helped him in his fight.*

What QUESTIONS do you have?

- *What is a free society?*
- *Which did Jackie think was more important in his success—his faith in God or his living in a free society?*

What is a main point Jackie Robinson makes? What evidence makes you think this is the main point?

***Note:** The point and evidence supporting that point identified by students may vary; both main points are below, with corresponding evidence.

Point	Evidence
<i>Although humans are imperfect, they are always moving toward perfection, however slowly.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"...imperfections are human."</i> • <i>When humans are given space and time, these imperfections start to slowly disappear.</i> • <i>Humans are not perfect.</i> • <i>We need to deal with stumbling blocks and prejudices.</i>
<i>A free society supports people in moving toward perfection because it allows everyone to change what they think and do.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Even though the obstacles were hard, his strong belief that he had a chance kept him going.</i> • <i>He knew he had a chance because he lived in a free society.</i> • <i>His fight wasn't against something he could not change.</i> • <i>People with the same goals worked around him so there was a chance of improvement.</i> • <i>Progress has to happen. There's a chance for change for everyone.</i> • <i>Free people are always changing.</i> • <i>But, if we put our past thinking behind us, we can cause great change.</i> • <i>"And I believe that the society can remain good only as long as we are willing to fight for it—and to fight against whatever imperfections may exist."</i> • <i>"And I fought because I knew it was not doomed to be a losing fight. It couldn't be a losing fight—not when it took place in a free society."</i>