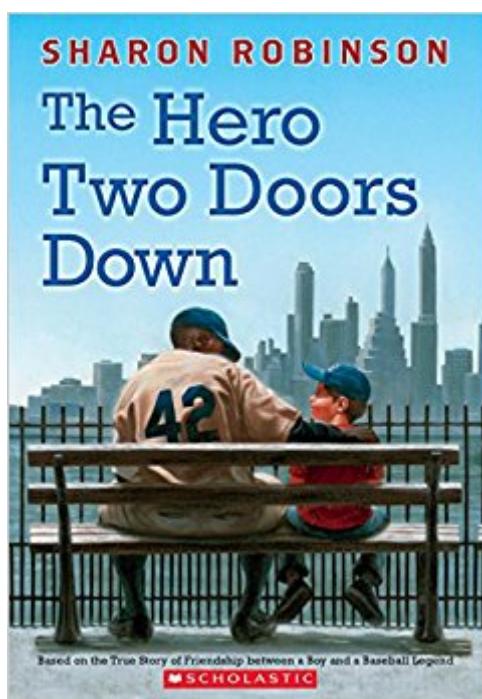


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# The Hero Two Doors Down: Based On The True Story Of Friendship Between A Boy And A Baseball Legend



## **Synopsis**

Stephen Satlow is an eight-year-old boy living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing—the Dodgers. Steve and his father spend hours reading the sports pages and listening to games on the radio. Aside from an occasional run-in with his teacher, life is pretty simple for Steve. But then Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood. It's 1948 and some of his neighbors are against it. Steve knows this is wrong. His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier in baseball the year before. Then it happens—Steve's new neighbor is none other than Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down from the Robinson family. He can't wait to meet Jackie. This is going to be the best baseball season yet! How many kids ever get to become friends with their hero?

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks; Reprint edition (August 29, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545804523

ISBN-13: 978-0545804523

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,283 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #8 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #119 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4-7-In 1948, when eight-year-old Steve learns that his African American baseball hero Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in the sport the previous year, will be the new next-door neighbor in his all-Jewish Brooklyn neighborhood, he gains knowledge about respect, friendship, and unity. © Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"...the story drives home the impact of Robinson's pioneering, not just for the game but for the country following it." --The Birmingham News" ...this charming tale offers up good fodder for discussion about prejudice, discrimination, friendship, and family." --Booklist" ...a home run for baseball fans and anyone who loves an inspirational friendship story." --School Library Journal

I really wanted to like this book, but it's a little too sappy. My 10 year old daughter thought it was really sappy too. I really didn't like Steve. he gets in trouble a lot at school. When he finds out that his teacher may visit his home to deliver bad news, he and his best friend Sena push her down. The story is a little sad because Steve's dad dies at the beginning, The story moves back to good memories from steve's past related to baseball and his love of Jackie Robinson. Certainly Jackie Robinson was an incredible baseball player, and he faced many challenges in integrating baseball. Unfortunately the book glosses over the racial conflicts, and just presents Jackie as a candidate for Sainthood. One of the biggest conflicts in the story is when Jackie doesn't realize that Steve is Jewish and buys him a Christmas tree. It's almost a scandal.

My 8 year old and 10 year old LOVED this book. It made lots of good conversations after each chapter. At they end, both boys got into a deep conversation about what famous sports hero they wished they could be two doors down from as well. After we read it, we found it on the front cover of the Scholastic Book Fair flyer.

This book was precious if I can call that. Children have an innate knack for bridging all sorts of situations. It is a book to be enjoyed by all.

Perfect book for emerging young readers. The topic is so important today as it was back then. A must read right now!

Great story of genuine love between families of different culture and race. This story serves as a reminder of looking beyond the differences and love people for who they are. Heroes may just live down the street if are open to possibilities.

I would prefer this to kids 8 and up. It talks about some topics sad but true. This book is truly a must read! It is based of of the time period of segregation and racial discrimination around 1947-mid 1950's. :(

My child reports that the book was "OK."

Grandson loves it

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