

**WRITTEN EXAMPLES
OF SOME OF THE WINNING
SPEECHES
AT THE LEON COUNTY
4-H/TROPICANA PUBLIC SPEAKING
CONTEST**



Jackie Robinson

There are many heroes in the world of baseball and Jackie Robinson is mine. He is my hero because he was the first black major league baseball player. He had a major impact on America with his personal and professional life.

Jackie Robinson was born, just up the road, in Cairo, Georgia on January 31, 1919. His family moved to Pasadena, California, in 1920. Robinson attended John Muir Technical High School. He also attended Pasadena Community College before he transferred to UCLA. Jackie was an outstanding athlete. He lettered in four sports at UCLA, baseball, football, basketball and track. Also he was excellent in swimming and tennis.

Robinson was drafted into the Army in 1942. While in the Army, he showed an interest in civil rights. By the 1940's organized baseball had been racially segregated for many years. The black press and some of their white colleagues had long campaigned for the integration of baseball. Although several people in major league baseball tried to end segregation in the sport, no one succeeded until Brooklyn Dodger General manager, Branch Ricky, set his "great experiment" into motion by drafting Jackie Robinson.

Jackie Robinson had awesome stats. His highest batting average was .342. But his career batting average was .311. In 1952 he got 104 runs. He won the National League' MVP award in 1949. Robinson won the batting title in 1949 with a .342 average. He was the first black to get these averages.

In 1956 Jackie Robinson retired. When Jackie retired he accepted a job with Chock Full O Nuts restaurant in New York. Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962, the first year he was eligible. Ten years later on October 24, 1972, Jackie Robinson died of a heart attack at his home in Stanford, Connecticut.

My grandpa was nine years old when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. My grandpa taught me to love baseball, the Dodgers, and Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson has taught me I can do whatever I want when I grow up. He is my hero.

HELP!!! I'm Trapped in My Kitty Cat's Body!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be someone...or something... else? I never really considered it until, one day, I woke up to find that I was covered in fur and able to scratch my neck with what appeared to be...A PAW!!!? That's when I realized something was seriously wrong with me. Looking in the mirror, I saw that my face had become that of my tabby cat, Mew. I had gone from a perfectly normal second-grader to a furry-faced-feline in a matter of hours. Meanwhile, my cat, Mew, had turned into me, Kirsten. I was ruined! How could I ever adjust to eating pellets and using a litterbox?

Well, now that I was a cat, I had to find some way to communicate with you brainless humans. Although amazingly you all manage to provide us with a food bowl and a litterbox, you don't seem to notice when we run out of food or our litterbox becomes dirty. Oh no, it's the cat's responsibility to tell you that there's something that needs doing. But I can't talk! So now I have to invent a silly routine performed near the empty food bowl or disgusting litterbox that involves meowing and a great deal of leg rubbing just to get my point across. Even getting humans to do something as simple as scratch my rump while I drink from the faucet proves to be a major communications challenge.

Cellular Airheads

They come in all different shapes and sizes, even blue, pink, and zebra! You see them everywhere—the mall, the movies, and even church! “Ring! Ring! Can you hear me now? Good.”

In 2001, there were 120 million cell-phone users in the US alone. 40,000 new people sign up every day, and that rate exceeds the birth rate! By the year 2005, it's estimated 1.26 billion people around the world will own cell-phones.

Cell-phones provide so many features, and I'm not just talking about the cool games. You can call anywhere in the world, create your own phone book, receive voice mail messages, make to-do lists, and schedule appointments. You can even surf the web, send and receive e-mails, and take pictures? (“Say Cheese”)

Knowing help is only a phone call away puts drivers at ease. Information about accidents can be reported quickly. Nearly 50 million wireless emergency calls are made to 911 yearly.

Although cell-phones can save your life, ironically they can end it. At any given moment of the day, there are over 90 million drivers talking on their cells. One out of every 4 car crashes is cell-phone related so your risk of collision is 4 times higher! In studies, cell-phone drivers miss twice as many traffic signals, and often lose their directions. People who can't walk and chew gum at the same time should not be cell-phone driving!

Clucky for Miss. U.S.A

She's beauty and she's grace, she's Miss United States. This is what Clucky has always wanted to be. Sadly Clucky is a chicken. My pet chicken in fact; and ever year the Miss. U.S.A. pageant comes around and every year the pageant comes and goes and poor Clucky never gets her chance to shine. SO, I'm here on Clucky's behalf to explain why Clucky should be Miss. U.S.A. or at least represent Florida.

Clucky is a beautiful Road Island Red. She stands at 1ft. 2in. tall. She has rich red feathers and long scaly legs. She enjoys pina coladas and getting caught in the rain. Her favorite foods are worms and chicken scratch. Clucky is a fun, energetic, loyal, caring, and heartwarming companion.

If you gave Clucky one wish she would say "bock, bock, bock" which translates to "world peace." Unlike those other blonde contestants, Clucky is concerned about the hunger problems in third world countries and wants to teach all children how to read and write. She would also like to find homes for the homeless and jobs for the unemployed, as well as help her fellow animal kind. Clucky believes that every living thing has a place in this world from the smallest ant to the larges whale.

Clucky is the most talented chicken I know. Well, she is THE only talented chicken I know. She can sing and dance and is a total drama queen. For the talent part of the pageant, Clucky would do a song and dance; probably from a Broadway play. First, she would twirl this way then she would whorl that way. Then she would burst into song: "boc boc ba ba boc boc" she would stun the audience and ensnare the judges with her extraordinary talents in song and dance.

Exclusive Info on an Elusive Author

Who never lets a good picture be taken of him? Who warns you NOT to read the books he wrote? Who records the tragic events in the lives of three unfortunate orphans? Who does? Lemony Snicket.

When you open a genuine Snicket book, you'll read a tale about the three Baudelaire orphans. You'll meet Sunny, an infant whose hobbies include biting hard objects; Klaus, a 12-year-old who loves to read and research; and Violet, a 14-year-old inventor who can be recognized by the ribbon she uses to tie up her hair with--to think.

In book number five, *The Austere Academy*, the Baudelaire orphans make friends with Duncan and Isadora Quagmire. They are all trying to escape from Count Olaf, a greedy villain who wants to get his hands on the Baudelaire Fortune and the Quagmire Sapphires.

The Quagmires do research and find out about V.F.D. You ask, what could these three initials stand for? Could V.F.D. mean "Village of Fowl Devotees, Vinegar Flavored Donuts," or maybe even something as simple as...No, I won't tell you. It would spoil the Very Fun Decoding!

In each of Snicket's ten published books, Mr. Snicket uses "notorious nouns, awful adjectives, and vile verbs". He talks of a greedy villain, a covered casserole dish, leeches, and a doll called Pretty Penny. When Lemony Snicket explains *deja vu*, he does so by repeating the same page (which is fitting because *deja vu* is the feeling you have when it seems like you've experienced the exact same thing before!)

Clowns Will Eat Me

When you hear the word “clown”, what is the first thought that enters your mind? Some may say, “fun, fun, fun at a circus!”, yet for me, I imagine a form of terror. All I have to say to you about what I am going to talk about in my speech is a simple three-worded phrase: I HATE CLOWNS.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, clowns are “a grotesquely dressed comedy performer in a circus.” However, my definition of a clown is a human being who has literally *lost* their mind to powder-white faces and polka-dotted suits, which alone is enough to scare the wits out of some people, ESPECIALLY kids!

One negative aspect of clowns are their repulsive clothing and makeup, usually consisting of paper-white faces, flaming red cheeks, and black panda-eyes. Another characteristic of clowns is just plain GROSS. Have you ever seen the typical circus act where twenty or so clowns try to fit into a kiddy-sized car by sitting on top of each other, wobbling around, and then at last, toppling over? That’s what I mean. It’s silly to even talk about it! However, worst of all are their *shiver* gigantic red puffy noses and their gigantic red floppy shoes, which make them walk like a penguin.

Some people often ask me what has led to my extreme, EXTREME dislike of clowns. I tell them a story of what happened to me when I was eight. My mother had brought me to the local carnival, with the impression that I would enjoy myself. At the entrance, there stood ... you guessed it ... a clown. He wore wide round neon green trousers, and a gigantic nose that he squeezed and honked

“Bump, Set, Spike!!!”

By: Hannah Ead

I am going to tell you how volleyball and witnessing to people who are not Christians is very similar.

First of all, in volleyball, just like witnessing, you have to always be warmed up and ready to play. Whether you are a starter or a bench warmer, you need to do the same physical conditioning, and keep in the same physical shape. You never know when the coach will call on you, or when the team will need you. If you are not ready you might miss your one and only chance or injure yourself.

In witnessing, you also have to always be ready. You never know when people might ask you a question about becoming a Christian. That is why it is so important to always be ready. Good Christian conditioning includes, reading your Bible and praying to God everyday.