

# Batman

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Batman** (originally referred to as **the Bat-Man** and still referred to at times as **the Batman**) is a fictional character, a comic book superhero co-created by artist Bob Kane and writer Bill Finger (although only Kane receives official credit), appearing in publications by DC Comics. The character first appeared in *Detective Comics* #27 (May 1939).

Batman's secret identity is **Bruce Wayne**, a wealthy industrialist, playboy, and philanthropist. Witnessing the murder of his parents as a child, Wayne trains himself both physically and intellectually and dons a bat-themed costume in order to fight crime.<sup>[1]</sup> Batman operates in the fictional American Gotham City, assisted by various supporting characters including his sidekick Robin and his butler Alfred Pennyworth, and fights an assortment of villains influenced by the characters' roots in film and pulp magazines. Unlike most superheroes, he does not possess any superpowers; he makes use of intellect, detective skills, science and technology, wealth, physical prowess, and intimidation in his war on crime.

Batman became a popular character soon after his introduction, and gained his own comic book title, *Batman*, in 1940. As the decades wore on, differing takes on the character emerged. The late 1960s *Batman* television series utilized a camp aesthetic associated with the character for years after the show ended. Various creators worked to return the character to his dark roots, culminating in the 1986 miniseries *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*, by writer-artist Frank Miller. The successes of director Tim Burton's 1989 film *Batman* and Christopher Nolan's 2005 reboot *Batman Begins* also helped to reignite popular interest in the character.<sup>[2]</sup> A cultural icon, Batman has been licensed and adapted into a variety of media, from radio to television and film, and appears on a variety of merchandise sold all over the world.

# Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** (2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948) was a major political and spiritual leader of India and the Indian independence movement. He was the pioneer of *satyagraha*—resistance to tyranny through mass civil disobedience, firmly founded upon *ahimsa* or total non-violence—which led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. He is commonly known around the world as **Mahatma Gandhi** (Sanskrit: *mahātmā* or "Great Soul", an honorific first applied to him by Rabindranath Tagore) and in India also as *Bapu* (Gujarati: *bāpu* or "Father"). He is officially honoured in India as the *Father of the Nation*; his birthday, 2 October, is commemorated there as *Gandhi Jayanti*, a national holiday, and worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Gandhi first employed non-violent civil disobedience as an expatriate lawyer in South Africa, in the resident Indian community's struggle for civil rights. After his return to India in 1915, he set about organising peasants, farmers, and urban labourers in protesting excessive land-tax and discrimination. Assuming leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for easing poverty, for expanding women's rights, for building religious and ethnic amity, for ending untouchability, for increasing economic self-reliance, but above all for achieving *Swaraj*—the independence of India from foreign domination. Gandhi famously led Indians in the Non-cooperation movement in 1922 and in protesting the British-imposed salt tax with the 400 km (249 mi) Dandi Salt March in 1930, and later in calling for the British to *Quit India* in 1942. He was imprisoned for many years, on numerous occasions, in both South Africa and India.

Gandhi was a practitioner of non-violence and truth, and advocated that others do the same. He lived modestly in a self-sufficient residential community and wore the traditional Indian *dhoti* and shawl, woven with yarn he had hand spun on a *charkha*. He ate simple vegetarian food, and also undertook long fasts as means of both self-purification and social protest.

# Rosa Parks

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Rosa Louise McCauley Parks** (February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005) was an African American civil rights activist whom the U.S. Congress later called the "Mother of the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement".

On December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Parks refused to obey bus driver James Blake's order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. Her action was not the first of its kind: Irene Morgan, in 1946, and Sarah Louise Keys, in 1955, had won rulings before the Supreme Court and the Interstate Commerce Commission respectively in the area of interstate bus travel. But unlike these previous individual actions of civil disobedience, Parks' action sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Parks's act of defiance became an important symbol of the modern Civil Rights Movement and Parks became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation. She organized and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including boycott leader Martin Luther King, Jr., helping to launch him to national prominence in the civil rights movement.

Parks eventually received many honors ranging from the 1979 Spingarn Medal to the Congressional Gold Medal, a posthumous statue in the United States Capitol's National Statuary Hall, and the posthumous honor of lying in honor<sup>[1]</sup> at the Capitol Rotunda.

At the time of her action, Parks was secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP and had recently attended the Highlander Folk School, a Tennessee center for workers' rights and racial equality. Nonetheless, she took her action as a private citizen "tired of giving in". Although widely honored in later years for her action, she also suffered for it, losing her job as a seamstress in a local department store. Eventually, she moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she found similar work. From 1965 to 1988 she served as secretary and receptionist to African-American U.S. Representative John Conyers. After retirement from this position, she wrote an autobiography and lived a largely private life in Detroit. In her final years she suffered from dementia and became embroiled in a lawsuit filed on her behalf against American hip-hop duo OutKast. Her death in 2005 was a front-page story in the United States' leading newspapers.

# Pancho Villa

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Doroteo Arango Arámbula** (June 5, 1878 – July 20, 1923), better known as **Francisco** or "**Pancho**" **Villa**, was a Mexican Revolutionary general. In his own version of his life at the age of 16 he shot an older man, the son of a big landowner, who had tried to rape Pancho's younger sister Martina. After this, being pursued for murder, he escaped. (This version is debunked - see Jeff Howell at References below.) During the following years, first living as an outlaw, then working his way up to a position as a division's commander, not many details are known.

As commander of the *División del Norte* (Division of the North), he was the veritable caudillo of the Northern Mexican state of Chihuahua; which, given its size, mineral wealth, and proximity to the United States of America, gave him great popularity. Villa was also provisional Governor of Chihuahua in 1913 and 1914. While he was prevented from being accepted into the "panteón" of national heroes until some twenty years after his death, today his memory is honored by Mexicans and many Mexican-Americans. In addition, numerous streets and neighborhoods in Mexico are named in his honor.

In 1916 he raided Columbus, New Mexico. This act provoked the unsuccessful Punitive Expedition commanded by General John J. Pershing, which failed to capture Villa after a year in pursuit. Villa and his supporters, known as Villistas, employed tactics such as propaganda and firing squads against his enemies, and seized hacienda land for distribution to peasants and soldiers. He robbed and commandeered trains, and, like the other Revolutionary generals, printed fiat money to pay for his cause. Villa's generalship was noted for the speed of its movement of troops (by railroad), the use of an elite cavalry unit called *Los dorados* ("the golden ones") (for which he earned the nickname *El Centauro del Norte* (The Centaur of the North)), artillery attacks, and recruitment of the enlisted soldiers of defeated enemy units. Many of Villa's tactics and strategies were adopted by later 20th century revolutionaries.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

As one of the major (and most colorful) figures of the first successful popular revolution of the 20th century, Villa's notoriety attracted journalists, photographers, and military freebooters (of both idealistic and opportunistic stripes) from far and wide.

Villa's non-military revolutionary aims, unlike those of the Zapatista Plan de Ayala, were not clearly defined. Villa only spoke vaguely of creating communal military colonies for his troops. Despite extensive research by Mexican and foreign scholars, many of the details of Villa's life are in dispute.

When one of Madero's military commanders, Pascual Orozco, started a counterrebellion against Madero, Villa gathered his mounted cavalry troops and fought alongside General Victoriano Huerta to support Madero. However, Huerta viewed Villa as an ambitious competitor, and later accused Villa of stealing a horse and insubordination; he then had Villa sentenced to execution in an attempt to dispose of him. Reportedly, Villa

was standing in front of a firing squad waiting to be shot when a telegram from President Madero was received commuting his sentence to imprisonment, from which Villa later escaped. During Villa's imprisonment, Gilbardo Magaña Cerda, a Zapatista who was in prison at the time, provided the chance meeting which would help to improve his poor reading and writing skills, which would serve him well in the future during his service as provisional governor of the state of Chihuahua.

# Sacagawea

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Sacagawea** (also **Sakakawea**, **Sacajawea**; ([sɑ.kɑː.ʒə.wiː.ə] see below) (c. 1788 – December 20, 1812; see below for other theories about her death) was a Shoshone woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, in their exploration of the Western United States. She traveled thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean between 1804 and 1806. She was nicknamed **Janey** by Clark.

Reliable historical information about Sacagawea is extremely limited, but she has become an important part of the Lewis and Clark mythology in the American public imagination. The National American Woman Suffrage Association of the early twentieth century adopted her as a symbol of women's worth and independence, erecting several statues and plaques in her memory, and doing much to spread the story of her accomplishments.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Sacagawea dollar coin issued by the United States Mint depicts Sacagawea and her son, Jean Baptiste. The face on the coin was modeled on a modern Shoshone-Bannock woman named Randy'L He-dow Teton; no contemporary image of Sacagawea exists.

# Hillary Rodham Clinton

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton** (born October 26, 1947) is the junior United States Senator from New York and President-elect Barack Obama's nominee-designate for United States Secretary of State. She was a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2008 presidential election. She is married to Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States, and was the First Lady of the United States from 1993 to 2001.

A native of suburban Chicago, Hillary Rodham first attracted national attention in 1969 for her remarks as the first student to deliver the commencement address at Wellesley College. She embarked on a career in law after graduating from Yale Law School in 1973. Following a stint as a Congressional legal counsel, she moved to Arkansas in 1974 and married Bill Clinton in 1975. She was later named the first female partner at Rose Law Firm in 1979, and was twice listed as one of the one hundred most influential lawyers in America. She was the First Lady of Arkansas from 1979 to 1981 and 1983 to 1992. She successfully led a task force to reform Arkansas's education system, and was named the first female chair of the Legal Services Corporation by President Jimmy Carter. She was active in a number of organizations concerned with child welfare, as well as sitting on the boards of Wal-Mart and several other corporations.

When she was First Lady of the United States, her major initiative, the Clinton health care plan, failed to gain approval from the U.S. Congress in 1994. In 1997 and 1999, Clinton played a role in advocating for the establishment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the Foster Care Independence Act. Her time as First Lady drew a polarized response from the American public. She became the only First Lady to be subpoenaed, testifying before a federal grand jury as a consequence of the Whitewater controversy in 1996. She was never charged with any wrongdoing in this or any of the several other investigations during her husband's administration. The state of her marriage to Bill Clinton was the subject of considerable public discussion following the Lewinsky scandal in 1998.

After moving to New York, Clinton was elected as senator for New York State in 2000. That election marked the first time an American First Lady had run for public office; Clinton is also the first female senator to represent New York. In the Senate, she initially supported the George W. Bush administration on some foreign policy issues, which included voting for the Iraq War Resolution. She has subsequently opposed the administration on its conduct of the war in Iraq, and has opposed it on most domestic issues. She was reelected by a wide margin in 2006. In the 2008 presidential nomination race, Clinton won more primaries and delegates than any other female candidate in American history, but after a long campaign, she narrowly lost to Senator Barack Obama, who became the party's presumptive nominee in June 2008, and Clinton endorsed him and campaigned for him. She is the first First Lady to be subsequently appointed to the Cabinet in any Presidential administration.

# John F. Kennedy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**John Fitzgerald "Jack" Kennedy** (May 29, 1917 – November 22, 1963), often referred to by his initials **JFK**, was the thirty-fifth President of the United States, serving from 1961 until his assassination in 1963.

After Kennedy's military service as commander of the Motor Torpedo Boat PT-109 during World War II in the South Pacific, his aspirations turned political, with the encouragement and grooming of his father, Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. Kennedy represented the state of Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1947 to 1953 as a Democrat, and in the U.S. Senate from 1953 until 1960. Kennedy defeated then Vice President and Republican candidate Richard Nixon in the 1960 U.S. presidential election, one of the closest in American history. To date, he is the only practicing Roman Catholic to be president. He was the second-youngest President (after Theodore Roosevelt), and the youngest elected to the office, at the age of 43.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Kennedy is also the only president to have won a Pulitzer Prize.<sup>[3]</sup> Events during his administration include the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the building of the Berlin Wall, the Space Race, the African American Civil Rights Movement and early events of the Vietnam War.

Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas. Lee Harvey Oswald was charged with the crime and was murdered two days later by Jack Ruby before he could be put on trial. The Warren Commission and the 1979 House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that Oswald was the assassin, with the HSCA allowing for the probability of conspiracy. The event proved to be an important moment in U.S. history because of its impact on the nation and the ensuing political repercussions. Today, Kennedy continues to rank highly in public opinion ratings of former U.S. presidents.<sup>[4]</sup>

# César Chávez

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**César Estrada Chávez** (March 31, 1927 – April 23, 1993) was an American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers.<sup>[1]</sup> Supporters say his work led to numerous improvements for union laborers. His birthday has become a holiday in eight U.S. states. Many parks, cultural centers, libraries, schools, and streets have been named in his honor in cities across the United States.

Later in life, education became César's focus. The walls of his office in Keene, California (United Farm Worker headquarters) were lined with hundreds of books ranging in subject from philosophy, economics, cooperatives, and unions, to biographies of Gandhi and the Kennedys. He was a vegan.<sup>[2]</sup>

He is buried at 29700 Woodford Tehachapi Road in the Keene community of unincorporated Kern County, California (93531).<sup>[3][4]</sup> There is a portrait of him in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

## *Activism*

Chávez was hired and trained by Fred Ross as a community organizer in 1952 for the Community Service Organization (CSO), a Latino civil rights group. Chávez urged Mexican Americans to register and vote, and he traveled throughout California and made speeches in support of workers' rights. He later became CSO's national director in 1958.

Four years later, Chávez left the CSO. He co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) with Dolores Huerta. It was later called the United Farm Workers (UFW).

When Filipino American farm workers initiated the Delano grape strike on September 8, 1965, to protest for higher wages, Chávez eagerly supported them. Six months later, Chávez and the NFWA led a strike of California grape pickers on the historic farmworkers march from Delano to the California state capitol in Sacramento for similar goals. The UFW encouraged all Americans to boycott table grapes as a show of support. The strike lasted five years and attracted national attention. When the U.S. Senate Subcommittee looked into the situation, Robert F. Kennedy gave Chávez his total support.

# Jonas Salk

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

**Jonas Edward Salk** (October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American biologist and physician best known for the research and development of a killed-virus polio vaccine, the eponymous *Salk vaccine*.

During his life, Salk worked in New York, Michigan, Pittsburgh and California. In his later career, he devoted much energy toward the development of an AIDS vaccine.

While being interviewed by Edward R. Murrow on *See It Now* in 1955, Salk was asked: "Who owns the patent on this vaccine?" Surprised by the question's assumption of the requirement of a profit motive for his creation, he responded: "There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?"

In 1947, Salk received a position at the University of Pittsburgh, as the head of the Virus Research lab. Though he continued his research on improving the influenza vaccine, he set his sights on the poliomyelitis virus. Although about 99% of cases of polio are asymptomatic, the polio virus can attack the nervous system and within a few hours of infection, paralysis can occur. The death rate for paralytic cases is about 5-10%. Death usually occurs when the breathing muscles become paralyzed. Polio was sometimes hard to diagnose because of its flu-like symptoms, which include stiff neck, fever, and headache.

At that time, it was believed that immunity can come only after the body has survived at least a mild infection by live virus. In contrast, Salk observed that it is possible to acquire immunity through contact with inactivated (killed) virus. Using formaldehyde, Salk killed the polio virus, but kept it intact enough to trigger the necessary immune response. Salk's research caught the attention of Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now known as the March of Dimes Foundation). The organization decided to fund Salk's efforts to develop a killed virus vaccine.

The vaccine was first tested in monkeys, and then in patients at the D.T. Watson Home for Crippled Children. After successful tests, in 1952, Salk tested his vaccine on volunteering parties, including himself, the laboratory staff, his wife, and his children. In 1954, national testing began on two million children, ages six to nine, who became known as the Polio Pioneers. This was one of the first double-blind placebo-controlled tests, which has since become standard: half of the treated received the vaccine, and half received a placebo, where neither the individuals nor the researchers know who belongs to the control group and the experimental group. One-third of the children, who lived in areas where vaccine was not available, were observed in order to evaluate the background level of polio in this age group. On April 12, 1955, the results were announced: the vaccine was safe and effective. The patient would develop immunity to the live disease due to the body's earlier reaction to the killed virus.

Salk's vaccine was instrumental in beginning the eradication of polio, a once widely-feared disease. Polio epidemics in 1916 left about 6000 dead and 27,000 paralyzed in the United States. In 1952, 57,628 cases were recorded in the U.S. After the vaccine became available, polio cases in the U.S. dropped by 85-90 percent in only two years.

# Queen Latifah

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Dana Elaine Owens** (born March 18, 1970),<sup>[1]</sup> better known by her stage name **Queen Latifah**, is an American rapper, singer, model and actress. Latifah's work in music, film and television has earned her a Golden Globe award, two Screen Actors Guild Awards two Image Awards, a Grammy Award, six additional Grammy nominations, an Emmy Award nomination and an Academy Award nomination.

## Recording artist

Latifah started her career beatboxing for the rap group *Ladies Fresh*. Latifah was one of the members of the original version of the Flavor Unit, which, at that time, was a crew of MC's grouped around producer DJ Mark the 45 King. In 1988, DJ Mark the 45 King heard a demo version of Latifah's single "Princess of the Posse" and gave the demo to Fab Five Freddy, who was the host of *Yo! MTV Raps*. Freddy helped Latifah sign with Tommy Boy Records, which released Latifah's first album *All Hail the Queen* in 1989, when she was nineteen.<sup>[4]</sup> That year, she appeared as Referee on the UK label Music of Life album "1989—The Hustlers Convention (live)". In 1998, Co Produced by Ro Smith now CEO of Def Ro Inc. she released her fourth hip-hop album *Order in the Court*.

## Return to hip-hop

On September 12, 2008, Rolling Stone reported that Queen Latifah is working on a new album (nearly called "The L Word") that is due in December 2008; this album will be produced by Dr. Dre. She will also work with Missy Elliott.<sup>[10]</sup>

**Film and television**<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:QueenLatifah08TIFF.jpg>

Latifah at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival

From 1993 to 1998, Latifah had a starring role on *Living Single*, a FOX sitcom;<sup>[4]</sup> she also wrote and performed its theme music. She began her film career in supporting roles in the 1991 films *House Party 2*, *Juice*, and *Jungle Fever*. She had her own talk show, *The Queen Latifah Show*, from 1999 to 2001. She also had recurring roles during the second season (1991-1992) of the NBC hit *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Also, in 1991, she appeared in the music video for Naughty by Nature 's O.P.P.

Latifah made her big-screen debut in the 1996 box-office hit, *Set It Off* and subsequently had a supporting role in the Holly Hunter film *Living Out Loud* (1998).<sup>[4]</sup> She played the role of Thelma in the 1999 movie adaptation of Jeffrey Deavers' *The Bone Collector*, alongside Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. Although she had already received some critical acclaim, she gained mainstream success after being cast as Matron "Mama" Morton in the Oscar-winning musical *Chicago*, the recipient of the Best Picture Oscar.

# George Lopez

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**George Lopez** (born April 23, 1961) is a Mexican American comedian and actor. He is one of the most prominent Mexican-Americans from within the Latino community to be recognized in mainstream North American popular culture. He is perhaps best known for starring in his own produced television sitcom show entitled *George Lopez*.

Lopez became a stand-up comedian using his Mexican heritage as an attraction to Mexicans. Much of his comedy is based on his experiences in childhood, and that of the Mexican-American community in general. He has released four albums of recorded stand-up comedy shows.

## George Lopez, the television series

In 2000, after several years of performing stand-up comedy, Lopez was approached by actress Sandra Bullock for Lopez to produce and star in a comedy. Bullock was concerned about the lack of Hispanic-oriented sitcoms on American television and pushed to get a sitcom on television that starred Hispanics without being exclusively about the Hispanic American community. ABC, who had been criticized by Hispanic American groups for lack of Latinos on their television shows, quickly picked up the television series. In 2002, Lopez became one of the few Latinos to star in a television comedy series, following in the footsteps of Freddie Prinze and Desi Arnaz. The *George Lopez* show is an American situation comedy that originally aired on ABC from 2002 - 2007. Lopez is the co-creator, writer, producer, and star of the sitcom. On March 8, 2007, it was announced that *George Lopez* would join the Nick at Nite lineup and it was first aired on September 10, 2007. On May 15, 2008, the series was canceled by ABC.

## Controversy

Lopez criticized Jay Leno, someone he once considered a "close friend", during an interview on radio station WOMX-FM in Orlando, Florida on January 24, 2007, stating: "He's the biggest two-faced dude in TV." He also called him a back-stabber, and said he is not a proficient interviewer.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

Lopez is also known for his conflict with Carlos Mencia. In an interview on *The Howard Stern Show*, Lopez accused Mencia of appropriating 13 minutes of his material in Mencia's HBO special. Lopez frequently mentions his hatred for Eric Estrada. According to Lopez, he met Estrada when he was a teenager and Estrada was in the zenith of his career. Estrada refused to shake the teenager's hand, and Lopez has hated him ever since.

## Charity work

A native of Los Angeles who grew up in San Fernando Valley's Mission Hills, Lopez devotes much time to the community. His own charity, The George & Ann Lopez-Richie Alarcon CARE Foundation. He has received the Manny Mota Foundation Community Spirit Award and was named Honorary Mayor of Los Angeles for his extensive fund-raising efforts benefiting earthquake victims in El Salvador and Guatemala.

# Lisa Leslie

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Lisa Leslie**(born July 7,1972 in Gardena,California) currently plays in the WNBA for the Los Angeles Sparks.

## ***WNBA***

1996 was the golden year in Women's basketball. It marked the year when Women's National Basketball Association (professional basketball) was incorporated. 1997 is when the official league games started to play. Lisa Leslie was drafted on January 22 as one the top picks to the Los Angeles Sparks team, and is still competing in the league. She helped the Sparks make the playoffs five consecutive times, but the team was never able to win a championship until the 2001 season when the Sparks won the WNBA title <sup>[4]</sup>. In 2003 she became the first woman to ever dunk the ball in a WNBA game. That same year she became the first WNBA player to score over 3,000 total career points. Importantly from a team perspective, she helped the Sparks win their second straight world championship that season. Two seasons later, she became the first player to reach the 4,000-career point milestone <sup>[4]</sup>. Leslie remains the Sparks career scoring and rebounding leader, as well as the all time league leader in rebounds<sup>[1]</sup>. Lisa Leslie's career accomplishments and accolades are numerous over her years in the WNBA.

## ***International career/Olympic Career***

Lisa Leslie has made four consecutive Olympic appearances, and has earned four gold medals. She was the first female basketball player ever to earn that many gold medals. Lisa has also made appearances with the United States national women's basketball team where she won gold medals in 1996 and 2000, and has also earned a world championship<sup>[5]</sup>. Lisa Leslie is one of seven USA Basketball's three-time Olympians, but the only player with four gold medals. She led the U.S. team in scoring during the 2004 Olympic Games. During her third Olympic completion, she became the USA's all-time leading scorer, rebounder, and shot blocker in Olympic competition. Every time she has competed in a major international event, she has compiled double-digit scoring averages. Lisa, at age 20, was also the youngest player to participate at the USA Olympic Trials in 1992<sup>[3]</sup>.

# Jackie Robinson

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson** (January 31, 1919 – October 24, 1972) was the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.<sup>[1]</sup> Although not the first African-American professional baseball player in United States history, Robinson's 1947 Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers ended approximately 60 years of baseball segregation, breaking the baseball color line, or color barrier.<sup>[2]</sup> At that time in the United States, many white people believed that blacks and whites should be kept apart in many aspects of life, including sports.<sup>[3]</sup> Despite this obstacle, Robinson went on to have an exceptional baseball career.

Robinson played on six World Series teams and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. He earned six consecutive All-Star Game nominations and won several awards during his career. In 1947, Jackie won *The Sporting News* Rookie of the Year Award and the first MLB Rookie of the Year Award. Two years later, he won the National League MVP Award—the first black player to do so.<sup>[4]</sup> On April 15, 1997, the 50-year anniversary of his debut, Major League Baseball retired Robinson's jersey number 42 across all MLB teams in recognition of his accomplishments in a ceremony at Shea Stadium.<sup>[5]</sup>

He also had success away from the baseball field. Robinson was the first African-American Major League Baseball analyst and the first black vice president of a major American corporation.<sup>[6]</sup> In the 1960s, he helped to establish the Freedom National Bank, an African-American owned and controlled entity based in Harlem, New York.<sup>[7]</sup> Due to his achievements, Robinson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.<sup>[6][8]</sup> In 1950, he played himself in the biographical film *The Jackie Robinson Story*.<sup>[9]</sup> In 1946, Robinson married Rachel Annetta Isum,<sup>[10]</sup> and after Robinson died of a heart attack in 1972, she founded the Jackie Robinson Foundation.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Martin Luther King, Jr.** (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an African American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the American civil rights movement. His main legacy was to secure progress on civil rights in the United States and he is frequently referenced as a human rights icon today.

A Baptist minister,<sup>[1]</sup> King became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, serving as its first president.

King's efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. There, he raised public consciousness of the civil rights movement and established himself as one of the greatest orators in U.S. history.

In 1964, King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means. By the time of his death in 1968, he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and opposing the Vietnam War, both from a religious perspective.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. national holiday in 1986.

**Frida Kahlo** (July 6, 1907 – July 13, 1954) was a Mexican painter, who has achieved great international popularity.<sup>[2]</sup> She painted using vibrant colors in a style that was influenced by indigenous cultures of Mexico as well as by European influences that include Realism, Symbolism, and Surrealism. Many of her works are self-portraits that symbolically express her own pain and sexuality.

In 1929 Kahlo married the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. Her "Blue" house in Coyoacán, Mexico City is a museum, donated by Diego Rivera upon his death in 1957.

### ***Career as painter***

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frida\\_Kahlo\\_Diego\\_Rivera\\_1932.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Frida_Kahlo_Diego_Rivera_1932.jpg)

Frida Kahlo with Diego Rivera in 1932, by Carl Van Vechten

After the accident, Kahlo turned her attention away from the study of medicine to begin a full-time painting career. The accident left her in a great deal of pain while she recovered in a full body cast; she painted to occupy her time during her temporary state of immobilization. Her self-portraits became a dominant part of her life when she was immobile for three months after her accident. Kahlo once said, "I paint myself because I am often alone and I am the subject I know best." Her mother had a special easel made for her so she could paint in bed, and her father lent her his box of oil paints and some brushes.<sup>[7]</sup>

Drawing on personal experiences, including her marriage, her miscarriages, and her numerous operations, Kahlo's works often are characterized by their stark portrayals of pain. Of her 143 paintings, 55 are self-portraits which often incorporate symbolic portrayals of physical and psychological wounds. She insisted, "I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality."

Kahlo was deeply influenced by indigenous Mexican culture, which is apparent in her use of bright colors and dramatic symbolism. She frequently included the symbolic monkey. In Mexican mythology, monkeys are symbols of lust, yet Kahlo portrayed them as tender and protective symbols. Christian and Jewish themes are often depicted in her work.

The Louvre bought one of her paintings, *The Frame*, which was displayed at the exhibit. This was the first work by a 20th century Mexican artist ever purchased by the internationally renowned museum.

# Being a Hero

Written by a 14 – 16 year old student.

In retrospect, it's tough being a hero.

It all began on a Thursday morning, during a vicious storm. A fork of white lightning cut across the sky, illuminating it for a few seconds before it plunged back into a dreary gray mass of clouds. Thunder rumbled, vibrating the walls of the school, ending in an violent crack. Ethan Dodd's eyes widened to the approximate size of saucers, and, to the delight of his audience, he screamed shrilly and dove under his binder.

Natalie Young, part of his audience of two, howled with laughter. "I really ought to be offended - I mean, I'm a girl, and I don't act like that."

A clap of thunder punctuated her comment, followed by another crystal-clear streak of lightning. Ethan whimpered pitifully and piled three more notebooks on top of his head, much to the further delight of Natalie and Garrett Brockley, his second spectator.

Their amusement came to an end very quickly.

The next blaze of lightning was so clearly defined, that Natalie, seated with a clear view of the window, was able to count the jagged edges on it, so close that when it struck, the ground shook and the lights flickered; the noise of the thunder rumbling resembled the sound of a building collapsing more than anything else.

For a few seconds, everything seemed all right. Dead silence settled over the school, as if time had been halted. Ethan withdrew his head from under the books to gaze at his two classmates, both of whom looked stunned. Normally, Natalie, would have straightened up and shakily insisted that they take out their textbooks to study. This time, she didn't get the chance.

The fire alarm began shrieking, more shrill than Ethan remembered from any drill. Without thinking, he leaped from his seat, dragging Garrett - who was babbling something about Superman - up by the collar. In a different situation, Ethan would have been amused.

Right then, though, even Ethan knew that the situation was serious. He'd attended this school since kindergarten, and knew every word of the school policy, every angle and every loophole. The principal would never order a fire drill in the middle of an electrical storm. And, more importantly, the teacher had left a couple of minutes prior to use the restroom.

There was a fire somewhere in the school, and they were on their own.

The two boys were halfway out the door before Ethan realized that Natalie wasn't on their heels. Glancing back, he could see that she was still in her seat, staring dazedly at the floor.

He didn't have any time to waste, but he wasn't going to leave her there. Natalie wasn't thinking clearly, probably was in shock, and definitely couldn't fend for herself right then. Leaving Garrett by the door - "No, Ethan, I'm serious! Superman would get everyone out, then drink up a whole lot of water so's he could spit it out and put out the fire!" - he dashed across the room and gently pulled Natalie up by the arm. "Come on, Shortie. We've gotta go."

"I smell smoke." The girl wasn't even looking at him. Ethan tugged on her arm, and Natalie followed him, moving at an agonizingly sluggish pace.

"You probably do, Shortie. Probably do," Ethan breezily replied, slinging an arm over Garrett's shoulder as he walked past, pulling the boy out of the room.

The door leading to the playground, the predetermined meeting place, was right by their classroom. It was an easy matter for Ethan to slam into the crash bar, guiding a madly blabbering Garrett and a zombie-like Natalie outside to join the ranks of children already shivering in the spitting rain.

There was, as it turns out, no fire. Lightning had struck the parking lot, frying some of the electrical wiring, setting off the fire alarm. But if there had been a fire, Natalie and Garrett could have been killed. Ethan's quick action would have saved them, and everyone knew it.

Being a hero was pretty awesome, he reflected during assembly. Not only did he receive a round of applause from his fellow students, he had a whole train of kindergarteners trailing him around, and - this was the best part - he'd received the rank of teacher's pet.

Only Natalie (ungrateful little creature) had anything negative to say. “You’re not just Ethan the slacker anymore. You’ve earned everyone’s respect; at the rate you’re going, it’s going to disappear like that.” She snapped her fingers under his nose. Ethan laughed.

“Don’t be silly, Shortie,” he grinned. “They love me. No, don’t roll your eyes at me, young lady. I’m being serious.”

“You? Serious?” Natalie pretended to think. “Oxymoron.”

“Hey, I was very serious when I saved you and Garrett. That should be enough to convince you. Anyways, Shortie ol’ pal, I am extremely loved. For instance, I could glue Mrs. Zawisza’s lesson plan book shut, and she’d just smile at me like I’m a little angel.” He already had the glue in his hand, a lively grin on his face.

There was no stopping him.

The next time Natalie saw Ethan, he was sitting outside the principal’s office in a desk that was definitely not built for a stocky seventh-grader, trying to balance a pencil on his nose.

Apparently Ethan’s newly found and even more newly lost status didn’t protect him from detention.

It’s tough being a hero.