

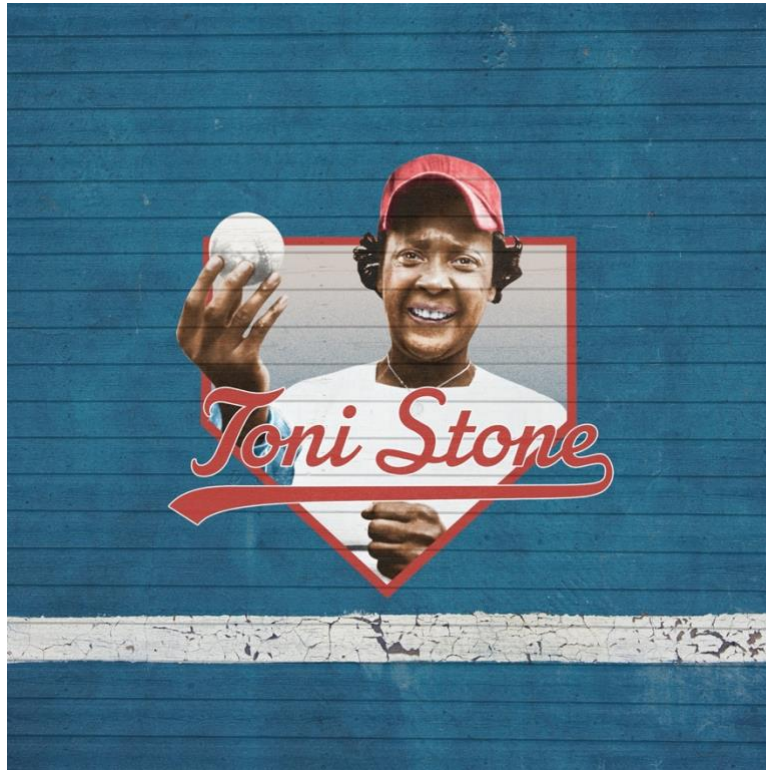
# Alliance Theatre

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## *institute*

### Study Guide *Toni Stone*

Created as part of the Alliance Theatre's Dramaturgy by Students program  
By: Jade Lambert's Advanced Drama class at Tri-Cities High School  
Jessenia Ingram, Teaching Artist  
Rebecca Pogue, Head of Elementary School Programs



By Lydia R. Diamond  
Directed by Tinashe Kajese-Bolden

February 10 – February 27, 2021  
Coca-Cola Stage

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Photo by Michael Brosilow

# Georgia Standards of Excellence

## *High School: Grades 9-12*

### **English Language Arts**

- ELAGSE9-10RL3: Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- ELAGSE9-10RL4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone.)
- ELAGSE9-10RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.
- ELAGSE9-10RI7: Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
- ELAGSE11-12RL1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- ELAGSE11-12RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

### **Social Studies**

- SSCG7 Demonstrate knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights.
- SSSocIC1 Analyze forms of social inequality.
  - a. Explain how unequal distribution of power and resources affects the life chances of individuals in that society.
  - b. Analyze the sources and effects of stratification on the basis of social class, race and ethnicity, gender, age, and emotional, mental, and physical disabilities.

### **Theatre**

- TAHSAD.PR.2 Execute artistic and technical elements of theatre.
  - a. Engage as a creative team in script analysis to plan and create technical elements of a theatre production.
- TAHSAD.RE.2 Critique various aspects of theatre and other media using appropriate supporting evidence.
  - a. Utilize constructive criticism and appropriate theatre terminology to modify and improve performance choices.
- TAHSFT.CN.1 Explore how theatre connects to life experiences, careers, and other content.
  - a. Examine how theatre reflects real life
- TAHSFT.CN.2 Examine the role of theatre in a societal, cultural, and historical context.
  - b. Explore the works of milestone playwrights and plays, and the relevance of historical theatre.
  - d. Interpret cultural and historical research for use in a production.

**Content Warning:** *Contains mature language on topics of racism, sexism, and sexual harassment.*

## The Playwright: Lydia R. Diamond

Compiled by Jaion H. and Jordyn S.

### Playwright Biography



Lydia R. Diamond is an award-winning playwright whose works include *Toni Stone*, *Smart People*, *Stick Fly*, *Voyeurs de Venus*, *Harriet Jacobs*, and *The Bluest Eye*. Her work has been performed at Arena Stage, Arden Theatre Company, Second Stage Theater, The New Vic Theatre, Company One, Goodman Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, and McCarter Theatre Center. Diamond has been a W.E.B. DuBois Institute Fellow at Harvard, a Sundance Playwright Lab Creative Advisor, a Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellow, a Sally B. Goodman Fellow, a Huntington

Playwright Fellow, and a National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group playwright. She is the 2020 recipient of The Horton Foote Prize, sits on the Dramatists Guild Legal Defense Fund board, and is on faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### Process of *Toni Stone*

Lydia Diamond's *Toni Stone* was first performed on June 20, 2019, and first published on April 12, 2021. Before Lydia Diamond was commissioned to write a play about Toni Stone, she did not have any knowledge of the baseball player. After researching Stone, Lydia Diamond was perplexed about how she was not a household name. Lydia Diamond's *Toni Stone* was based on Martha Ackmann's biography *Curveball, The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League*.

### Lydia Diamond's Connection to *Toni Stone*

"Throughout [Stone's] life, she had a singular focus. That was to play baseball. To play well and to play aggressively," says Diamond. "I was attracted to the story of somebody who had the passion, the drive, and the rigor to do what they had to do in the face of whatever obstacles. For Toni, it was never about surmounting obstacles, it was just about playing baseball. I find that incredibly inspiring." Lydia Diamond conveyed that Toni Stone's life was a true American story, defining it as intrinsically bound.

### Works Cited:

Clement, O. (n.d.). With *Toni Stone*, Lydia R. Diamond brings the most legendary baseball player you never heard of to the stage. Playbill. Retrieved January 19, 2022, from <https://www.playbill.com/article/with-toni-stone-lydia-r-diamond-brings-the-most-legendary-baseball-player-you-never-heard-of-to-the-stage> "Woodruff Arts Center." Alliance Theatre, <https://alliancetheatre.org/production/2021-22/toni-stone>  
Photo Credit: Harvard University

Fun Fact: Toni Stone was 15 when she started playing for a semi-professional baseball team.

## Synopsis

Considered a pioneer, Toni Stone is the first woman to play baseball in the Negro Leagues, also making her the first woman to play professionally in a men's league. Against all odds, Toni blazes a path in the male-dominated sports world, breaking through the limitations others placed on her, and creating her own set of rules. Follow Toni's journey as she fights for love, equality, and a chance to do what she wants the most — play some world class baseball. Declared the "Best New Play of 2019" by The Wall Street Journal, *Toni Stone* is a funny and fascinating story of race, gender, and raw ambition... and an unheralded superstar you'll never forget.



Photo by Michael Brosilow

Fun Fact: Major League Baseball (MLB) was formed in 1903.

## Character Analysis

Compiled by Raymond S.

Character	Description
Toni Stone	Toni, 28-35 years old, is the first Black Female baseball player to play in the Negro League. She is likeable, athletic, and quirky but is also tough. When she is with Millie or in Jack's Tavern, she wears a man's blazer over her uniform. Toni often alters characteristics about herself because they are "too girly." For example, her original name was Marcenia Lyle, but she changed it because it was too feminine.
Millie	Millie, late 30s-early 40s, is Toni's first ever female friend. She often does Toni's hair for her and gives her and some of the team a place to stay every so often. She sometimes "lives in her head, giving [Toni] two cents about her life decisions."
Alberga	Alberga, 63 years old, is Toni's love interest. He meets her at Jack's Tavern. Toni Stone swings by frequently to talk to Alberga about baseball.
Syd	He is the owner of the Indianapolis Clowns. He is rich enough to own a major league team, but he finds the Negro Leagues more entertaining.
Jimmy	He is the flashiest, "greenest" player on the team. He always plays hard, but he isn't the brightest and has an immature humor. Jimmy is extremely impressionable. He is very scared of racists.
Willie Brown	He plays left field and is "solid," literally and figuratively.
Stretch	He is a young player and Toni's favorite teammate; he sympathizes with Woody. Toni refers to him as the "catcher, team manager, and coach." He is young and eager, and he is the optimist of the team. Stretch doesn't move an inch on the field, but the "ball always ends up in his hands."
Woody Bush	He is critical and a wise crack, and he doesn't have as much respect for Toni or the idea of female teammates. Even when it comes to his male teammates, he treats them poorly. However, as the play progresses, we understand his story and why he is so bitter. He was cheated out of Major League Baseball because he wasn't like Jackie Robinson, hence his deep-rooted hatred for the player.
Elzie Marshall	He is the toughest left hander and a ladies' man (compensating for his play on the field). He thinks he is the one of the best in baseball and believes he is just as good as Jackie Robinson.
King Tut	He is the class clown. He is comically gifted and the "most famous person on the team and in the Negro Leagues."
Spec Beebop	He is short because "all his body went to his brain." He knows many facts and often shares them with the team. He can also juggle.

Fun Fact: Stone attended Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis but dropped out of school by the age of fifteen. She first played second base with the Twin Cities Colored Giants semi-pro team, a local barnstorming club which traveled around the Midwest and Canada.

## Setting Study

Compiled by Braelen G.

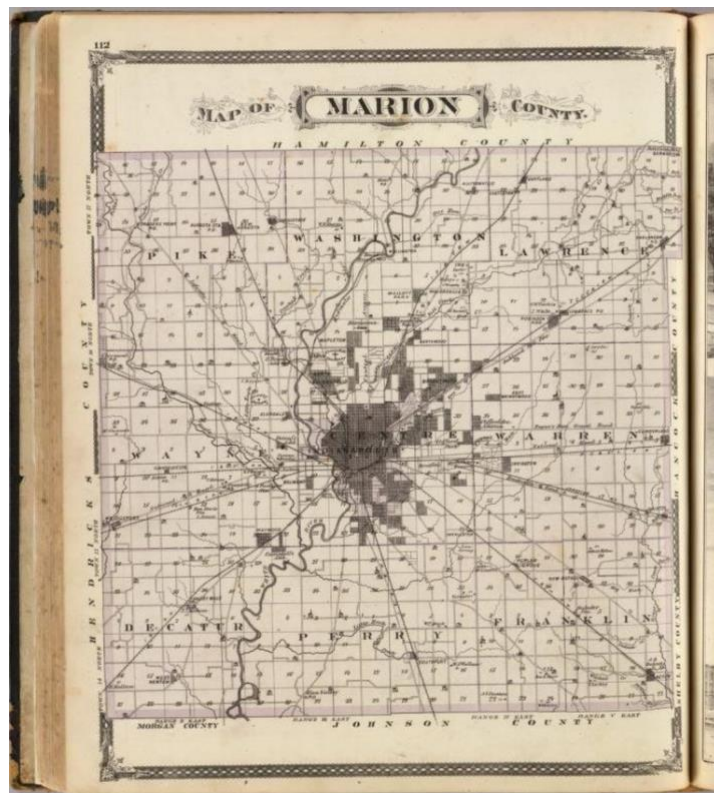
The play, *Toni Stone*, is set in Indianapolis, Indiana, a very urban city. Indianapolis is the capital of the state, geographically located directly in the center, allowing for easy, convenient access to travel. Its location is important in the play because Toni and her crew drive across the state to play baseball games.

People living in Indiana are referred to as Hoosiers, and they are big supporters of sports teams. The most popular sports at the time of the play were football and soccer. Baseball saw a steady decline in sports fans because of the integration of African American players in Major League Baseball.

Indianapolis is located in Marion County.

In 1950, the largest city in the state was Indianapolis, with a population of 427,173. The second-largest city was Gary, where from 1950-1970, the population of non-white people was 55%. However, in Indianapolis, when the play took place, the population of non-white people was 24%.

African Americans were often discriminated against. In the play, Toni talks about how many baseball stadiums in the Negro Leagues needed work done. The field was not safe, and the characters had to play in rough conditions.



### Works Cited:

<https://www.oldmapsonline.org/map/rumsey/0019.101>

<https://michianamemory.sjclpl.org/digital/collection/p16827coll4/id/323>

<https://blogs.libraries.indiana.edu/iubarchives/tag/1950s/>

<https://www.acgsi.org/genweb/county/timeline/1950s-timeline-of-allen-county-indiana.html>

Fun Fact: Baseballs are rubbed with a very specific type of mud before each game which comes from the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. It gives the baseballs a rougher surface for better grip and more control. The mud was even called "Magic" at one point.

## Themes

Compiled by Sofia H. & Blessing B.

**Themes** are main ideas or underlying meanings a writer explores in a literary work. The theme of a story can be conveyed using characters, setting, dialogue, plot, or a combination of all of these elements.

Theme	Evidence	Analysis
Racism/Race Relations	<p>CROWD MEMBER 2: “Why you don’t use those big lips to catch the ball!!!!”</p> <p>TONI: “We’re ahead: eleven to seven. Don’t know if I told you ‘bout exhibition games.” (pg. 30)</p>	<p>This example demonstrates an act of racism, in which a white crowd member reacts angrily to Toni’s success as a Black woman in baseball.</p> <p>People of color had to go the extra mile in this time period because of the racism and envy mainly from white people. Racism in sports is nothing new and has been around for a long time. During the time period of the play, owners of Major League Baseball teams thought that white crowd members wouldn't watch the games because of Black players. Luckily, things have changed since then.</p>
Poverty in Black Communities	<p>TONI: “Mama always said I’d end up here if I didn’t get a respectable job.” (pg. 36)</p>	<p>In the time of the play, job opportunities were limited for people of color, especially people from low-income communities. When Toni pursued baseball, her mother was worried that the job would not support her livelihood.</p>
Sexism in Sports	<p>WOODY: “Jesus Christ... Spec’s short read books, King’s funny, Jimmy’s an idiot, Stretch tall, Willie’s drunk, Elzie’s pretty, and Toni’s a girl... Can we do this?” (pg. 9)</p>	<p>King implies that Toni being a woman is a disadvantage to the team. This example proves that in this time period, women are seen as weak and are unable to receive the same opportunities as men.</p>
Sense of Belonging	<p>Father O’Keefe: If I may... I see that Marcenia, struggles to find her place. (pg. 18)</p>	<p>Father O’Keefe thinks that Toni doesn't know where she belongs in the world, but to Toni, baseball is a natural gift, so she believes she has found her belonging.</p>




Fun Fact: The Father of Baseball is a British man named Henry Chadwick.




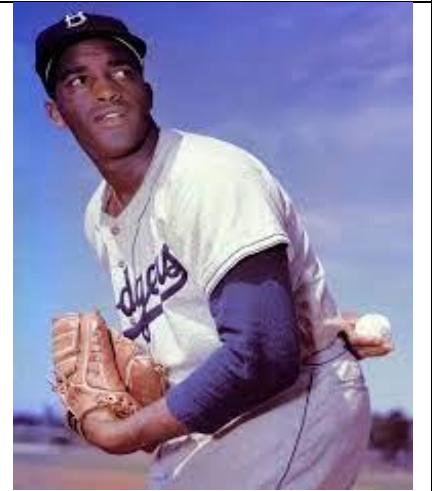
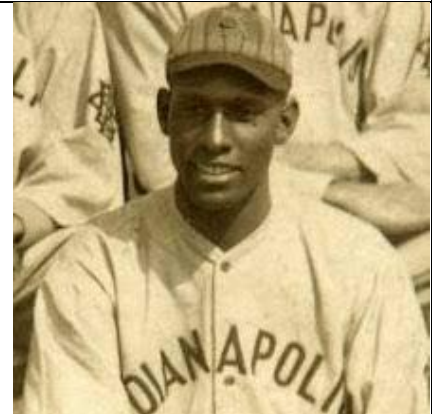
## Literary Allusions



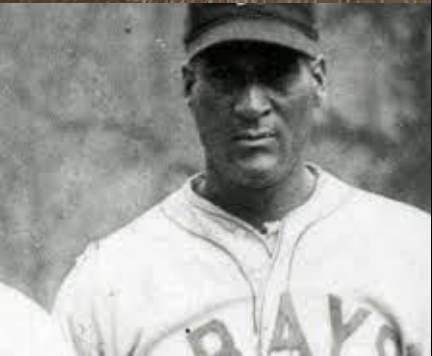

Compiled by Tanea H.


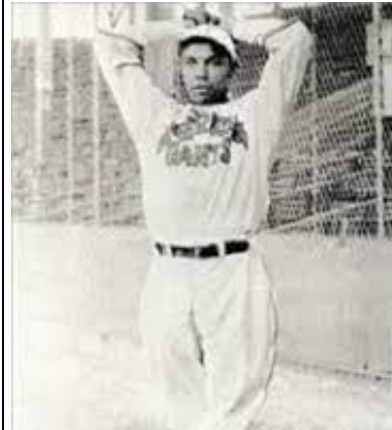

A **literary allusion** is a brief, but purposeful reference to a person, event, thing, or other text, outside of the world of the play.

Allusion	Description	Image
Al Jolson Jazz Hands	Some people contend that <u>jazz hands can be traced back</u> to Al Jolson's 1927 film, <i>The Jazz Singer</i> . In the film, Jolson plays a young man who defies his strict Jewish parents and becomes a singer. The film is mainly remembered both for being the first ever "talkie," with dialogue synchronized to the action, and for Jolson's incredibly offensive blackface minstrelsy. Some of Jolson's moves are reminiscent of what we would call jazz hands, with arms outstretched and hands extended pleadingly to the audience, but his moves lack the signature shake.	
Stacy Adams	Founded in 1875 in Brockton, Massachusetts by William H. Stacy and Henry L. Adams, the Stacy Adams Shoe Company has long been a part of American Culture. Stacy Adams Shoe Company has been through the test of time - from the roaring 20's and post-war boom, to prohibition and the jazz era.	
Jackie Robinson	On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. He would later become the first African American named a vice president at a Fortune 500 company, serve as an advisor to politicians, start a bank and a housing development company, and was a key figure in advancing equal opportunity and first-class citizenship for all Americans during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s.	

Fun Fact: Toni Stone played in 50 games for the Indianapolis Clowns and batted a decent .243, even getting a hit off the legendary pitcher Satchel Paige.  
She also played with young stars such as Willie Mays and Ernie Banks.

<p><b>W.E.B. Du Bois</b></p>	<p>Du Bois, a scholar at the historically Black Atlanta University, established himself as a leading thinker on race and the plight of Black Americans. He challenged the position held by Booker T. Washington, another contemporary prominent intellectual, that Southern Blacks should compromise their basic rights in exchange for education and legal justice. He also spoke out against the notion popularized by abolitionist Frederick Douglass that Black Americans should integrate with white society.</p>	
<p><b>Joe Black</b></p>	<p>Black made his MLB debut in 1952 and became the first African American pitcher to win a World Series game the same year. He also won the 1952 National League Rookie of the Year award, at age 28. Black was more than just a ballplayer; he spent many years in Phoenix working for Greyhound and the Arizona Diamondbacks, as well as giving through charity work around the Valley.</p>	
<p><b>John Wesley Donaldson</b></p>	<p>John Donaldson was a poised left hander with pinpoint control, and his money pitch was a hard, sharp breaking curve. He won his greatest fame in the 1910s as a star for <u>J.L. Wilkinson's</u> multi-racial All Nations ballclub, based in Des Moines, Iowa, and with whom he averaged almost 20 strikeouts per game. In 1913, he pitched three consecutive no hitters.</p>	

<p><b>Ernie Scott</b></p>	<p>Ernest Edward "Joe" Scott was an American Negro League first baseman in the 1920s and 1930s. A native of Ohio County, Kentucky, Scott made his Negro Leagues debut in 1927 with the Memphis Red Sox. He went on to play for several teams, finishing his career in 1938 with the Indianapolis ABCs.</p>	
<p><b>Ida B. Wells</b></p>	<p>Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In her lifetime, she battled sexism, racism, and violence. As a skilled writer, Wells-Barnett also used her skills as a journalist to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South.</p>	
<p><b>Smokey Joe Williams</b></p>	<p>Williams was one of the most feared Negro League pitchers in the first half of the 20th century, a tall Texan known for his fastball, smooth motion and great control. One of baseball's great drawing cards, the talented right-hander with the broad shoulders would shine for more than two decades for a number of teams, including the New York Lincoln Giants and Homestead Grays.</p>	
<p><b>Buck Leonard</b></p>	<p>Walter "Buck" Leonard was one of the best pure hitters to play in the Negro Leagues. He was also a key part of the Homestead Grays dynasty of the 1930s and 1940s. The first baseman spent his entire 15-year career with the Grays, the longest term of service for a player with one team in Negro League history. He played in a league-record 11 East-West All-Star Games.</p>	

<p><b>Buck O'Neil</b></p>	<p>Buck O'Neil lived a life devoted to baseball and the enduring memory of the Negro Leagues. O'Neil, a slick-fielding first baseman, had a .283 career batting average in his 11 years in the Negro Leagues, including 10 with his beloved Kansas City Monarchs. Additionally, he was a two-time Negro American League batting champion, hitting .345 in 1940 and .350 in 1946. O'Neil also managed the Monarchs from 1948-1955, leading the team to four Negro American League titles. "Buck was similar to Jackie Robinson," the late Joe Morgan said. "There was more to him than just baseball."</p>	
<p><b>Willie Foster</b></p>	<p>Foster was a pitcher in the Negro League in the 1920s and 1930s and was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996.</p>	
<p><b>Frederick Douglas</b></p>	<p>Frederick Douglass was one of history's great abolitionists. Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland – the exact date isn't known. After successfully escaping on his third try, Douglass rose to prominence and influence as an eloquent author, intellectual, and human rights leader. He was the first African American to hold high U.S. government ranks, as a diplomat in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and the first to be nominated for Vice President.</p>	

Fun Fact: Alyssa Nakken became the first full-time female baseball coach in Major League Baseball in July 2020. She is an assistant coach for the San Francisco Giants.

## Vocabulary

Compiled by Yeshua H., Zaria B. and Ja'Nieyah A.

### A

**Acrobatics:** (noun) spectacular gymnastic feats.

**Arbitrary:** (adjective) based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.



### B

**Barnstorming:** (verb) In athletics terminology, barnstorming refers to sports teams or individual athletes that travel to various locations, usually small towns, to stage exhibition matches.

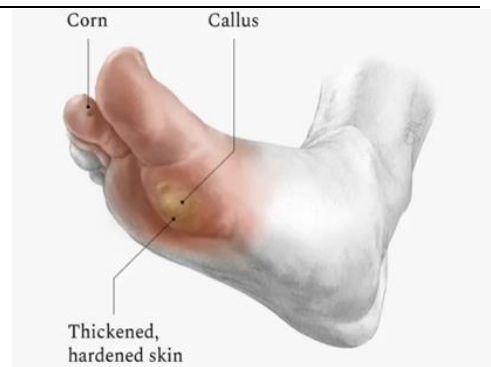
**Benevolent:** (adjective) well-meaning and kindly.

**Bulldagger:** (noun) a slang term used for a masculine lesbian, which often carries a racialized meaning.

### C

**Callus:** (noun) a thickened and hardened part of the skin or soft tissue, especially in an area that has been subjected to friction.

**Contractually:** (adverb) in a way that is agreed in or enforced by a contract.



### D

**Disposition:** (noun) a person's inherent qualities of mind and character.

**Dugout:** (noun) In baseball, the dugout is a team's bench and is in foul territory between home plate and either first or third base. There are two dugouts, one for the home team and one for the visiting team.



### E

**Etymology:** (noun) an explanation of where a word came from; the history of a word. For example, according to its etymology, the English word "dope" comes from the Dutch word "doop," which means "sauce."

## F

**Fortitude:** (noun) courage in pain or adversity.

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## G

**Gravitas:** (noun) high seriousness (as in a person's bearing or in the treatment of a subject).

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## I

**Inconspicuous:** (adjective) not clearly visible or attracting attention; not conspicuous.

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## J

**Jigaboo:** (noun) used as an insulting term for a Black person.

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## M

**Mulatto:** (noun) a person of mixed white and Black ancestry; a person with one white and one Black parent.

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## P

**Pontificate:** (verb) to express one's opinions in a way considered annoyingly pompous and dogmatic.

**Presumptuous:** (adjective) failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate.

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## U

**Umpire:** (noun) an official who watches a game or match closely to enforce the rules and arbitrate on matters arising from the play.

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Works Cited: <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>



Fun Fact: The youngest player in an MLB game was just 15 years old, and his name was Joe Nuxhall of the Cincinnati Reds.

# Baseball 101

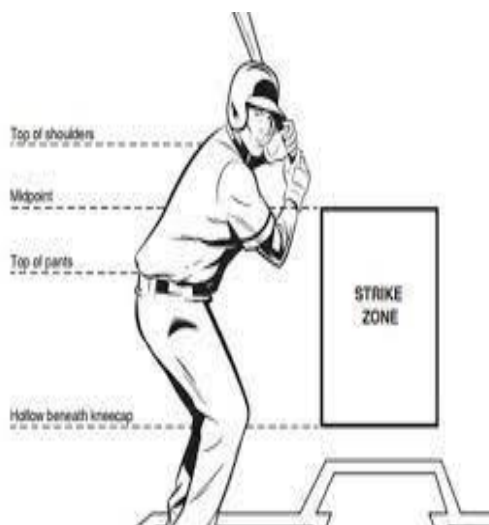
Compiled by Eryn R.

## Rules

Baseball is a bat-and-ball game played between two opposing teams, typically of nine players each, that take turns batting and fielding. They play on a field with a diamond-shaped circuit of four bases. The game proceeds when a player on the fielding team, called the pitcher, throws a ball which a player on the batting team tries to hit with a bat.

Here are the five main rules of baseball:

1. The **strike zone** is the volume of space through which a pitch must pass in order to be called a strike, even if the batter does not swing.
2. To **tag up** is for a baserunner to retouch or remain on their starting base until the ball is first touched by a fielder.
3. A **force play** occurs when a baserunner is no longer permitted to legally occupy a base attempt to advance to the next base.
4. A **tag out** is the put out of a runner, including the batter-runner, who is not in contact with his base when touched with a live ball, or with the glove or hand when the live ball is held securely there in by a fielder.
5. Lastly, each team that goes out onto the field is made of **nine people** each. The fielding team's positions are made up of a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman (*Toni Stone's position*), shortstop, third baseman, and three outfielders at left field, center field and right field.



**Baseball Tag Out**

Fun Fact: Recently a private buyer bought a baseball card showing Babe Ruth as a minor league pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles. The item costed 4.3 million which makes it the most valuable baseball card in history.

## Statistics

In the play, Toni mentions baseball statistics frequently. Baseball statistics can be pretty complex to grasp, but in case you would like to give it a try, here are a few common baseball stats!

- 1B - Single – hit in which the batter reached first base safely without the contribution of a fielding error.
- 2B - Double – hit in which the batter reached second base safely without the contribution of a fielding error.
- 3B - Triple – hit in which the batter reached third base safely without the contribution of a fielding error.
- HR - Home runs – hit in which the batter successfully touched all four bases, without the contribution of a fielding error.
- TA - Total average - total bases, plus walks, plus steals, divided by plate appearances plus caught stealing
- TB - Total bases - one for each single, two for each double, three for each triple, and four for each home run
- K - Strikeout - number of batters who received strike three
- A - Assists - number of outs recorded on a play where a fielder touched the ball, except if such touching is the putout

### Works Cited:

[https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Baseball\\_statistics](https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Baseball_statistics)

<https://www.mlbailydish.com/2016/1/27/10847330/strike-zone-perceptions-players-hurt-effects>

<https://www.rookieroad.com/baseball/rules-and-regulations/tag-out/>



Photo by Michael Brosilow



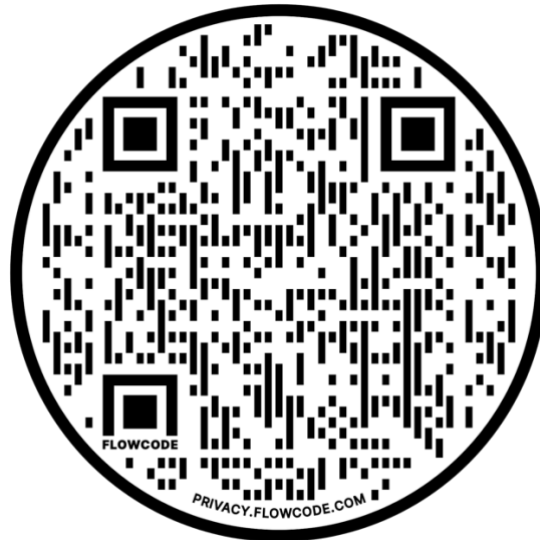
The Negro Leagues - *Segregation and Integration of Baseball*  
Video/Article Resources

Compiled by Nicholas W.

WATCH:

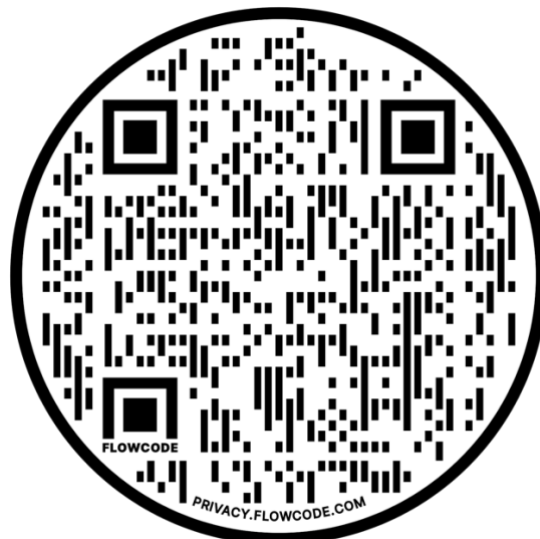
*100 YEARS of the Negro National League | A Century of Change*

This documentary focuses on the beginning and end of the Negro Leagues.



*Life in the Negro Leagues: There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace - 1981*

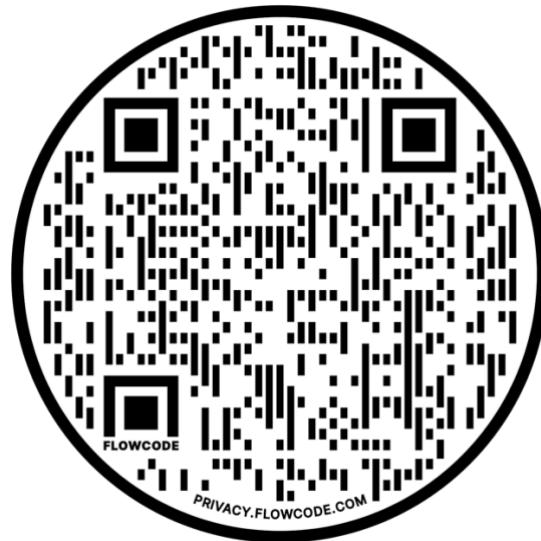
This documentary interviews former Negro League players and coaches to learn how they maintained a positive mindset in the face of discrimination.



READ:

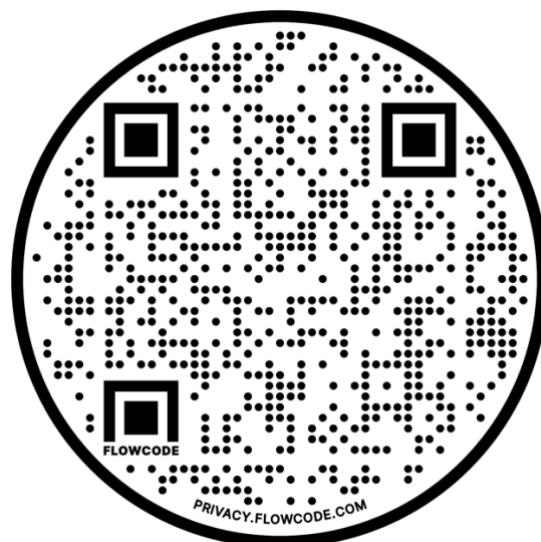
*"I Will Never Forget" 39 Interviews of Negro League Players*

This article provides a close look at how the players lived their lives both on and off the field.



*Black Writers/Black Baseball*

This article tells the stories of the Black players who came after Jackie Robinson.



Fun Fact: The first metal bat was patented in 1924 and were banned by the MLB in 1986 due to weight limits being imposed.

## Cultural and Social Context: 1950s

Compiled by Chayse A. and Kevin A.



### Women In The 1940s and 1950s

During World War II, many women worked in factories. Some even grew gardens to eat their own food and to save food supply for the men drafted into the war. These gardens were nicknamed "Victory Gardens." The propaganda used during WWII was a call to action for the women left behind to join the workforce and pick up the slack of the men who were enlisted.

Following the victory of the Allied Powers, men returned home to reclaim their jobs and roles in the household as breadwinner, provider, etc. Soon, ads rolled out depicting happy housewives, trying to coax employed women back into the home.

The 1950s was a post-WWII reversion to traditional social norms, as men returned home after the draft and needed their jobs back. Women would then settle into the role of homemaker.



## Black People and Indianapolis in the 1950s



In Indianapolis in the 1950s, Black people started to build names and businesses for themselves. Multiple jazz clubs, restaurants, and social areas opened and thrived. Business owners built on the legacy established by Madam C.J. Walker, a Black entrepreneur, social activist, and philanthropist, and they were especially present on Indiana Avenue. However, due to gentrification and urban development (allegedly fueled by racism), the life of this community dwindled.

## The Civil Rights Movement



The Civil Rights Movement was starting to gain the most traction in the mid-50s with the bus boycotts in Alabama, Freedom Riders, and sit-ins. The goal was to achieve just treatment and equal rights for Black people in the United States.

## Toni Stone Quiz

Compiled by Brooklyn M.

*Test your knowledge of the play or learn something new about Toni Stone's life!*

**1. Who is the playwright of *Toni Stone*?**

- A. Lydia R. Diamond
- B. Lydia Gartin
- C. John Diamond
- D. Toni Morrison

**2. To whom does Toni confess her real age?**

- A. Elzie
- B. Alberga
- C. King
- D. Woody

**3. What was the coach's name that was a part of the K.K.K (Ku Klux Klan)?**

- A. Coach Wells
- B. Coach Binge
- C. Coach Robert
- D. Coach Gabby

**4. What baseball position did Toni play?**

- A. Pitcher
- B. Second Baseman
- C. Catcher
- D. Third Baseman

**5. Where does the play take place?**

- A. Atlanta
- B. Chicago
- C. Indianapolis
- D. Houston

**6. What is the name of Toni Stone's baseball team?**

- A. The Indianapolis Clowns
- B. The Indianapolis Soldiers
- C. The Indianapolis Tigers
- D. The Indianapolis Cheetahs

**7. What championship did Toni Stone play for?**

- A. MLB
- B. NHL
- C. Negro Leagues
- D. NFL

**8. What is Toni Stone's real name?**

- A. Satchel Paige
- B. Lydia Diamond
- C. Elzie Marshall
- D. Marcenia Lyle

**9. Who did Toni Stone begin her professional career with?**

- A. Hawks Fierce
- B. San Francisco Sea Lions
- C. American League
- D. Boston Red Sox

**10. In which decade did Toni join the Negro Leagues?**

- A. 1930s
- B. 1940s
- C. 1950s
- D. 1960s

Fun Fact:  
95% of MLB players use maple wood bats.

## Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. D
9. B
10. C



Photos by Getty Images and Michael Brosilow

### Works Cited:

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Fun Fact: Stone spent her final days as a nurse and caring for her husband. She passed in 1996 at the age of 75.

### Pre-Show Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about baseball and the Negro League?
2. What are the different kinds of baseball statistics, and what do they tell you about a baseball player's career?
3. What do you know about Toni Stone and her career?
4. Toni Stone was the first woman to play baseball in the Negro Leagues, also making her the first woman to play professionally in a men's league. Do you have an experience from your own life when you blazed your own path and smashed the expectations and/or limitations placed on you?

### Post-Show Discussion Questions

*Engage in a discussion as a class or use these questions as journal prompts.*

1. How did the play use the ensemble of actors to dramatize Stone's life? (i.e. focusing on key events, creating composite characters based on real people, dialogue, physical staging, actors playing multiple roles and crossing race/gender lines)
2. How did the different costumes help us understand the characters' personalities, backgrounds, and motivations?
3. Do you think if this play were to be placed in modern times it would have the same impact? Did you notice differences in the way things were done in the 1950s versus now? Do you notice different or similar social behaviors and etiquettes?
4. Why does Toni always share baseball statistics in the middle of a conversation?



Photo by Michael Brosilow

## Post-Show Extension Activities

### Monologue Writing

A *monologue* is a speech given by one character.

Monologues provide us insight into a character's deepest thoughts and feelings and allow us to better understand the reason for their actions.

- Select a character from the play to develop through a monologue.
- Determine a setting (a specific place and time) for your monologue.
  - o The setting includes the indoor or outdoor location and the character's position (sitting, standing, lying down).
  - o The time specifies the date, season, day of the week, and time of day.
  - o The setting may also include context (i.e. a café on a busy street in downtown Atlanta) and mood (i.e. overcast, with clouds gathering overhead).
- Determine how your character might grow or change over the course of your monologue. For example, a character might tell a story, come to a decision, share a revelation, figure something out, or express a strong emotion.
- Determine whether your character is speaking to another character, and if so, whom, or to himself, and, by extension, the audience (technically, a soliloquy).
- When writing your monologue, include stage directions and details indicating the characters' actions or emotions as they speak.

Examples:

1. Imagine that you are Toni Stone, playing in a league with all men but getting paid less for the same job. How do you feel? Write a monologue from Toni's point of view.
2. Do you think that Alberga was fair in asking Toni to stop playing baseball? Why or why not? Write a persuasive monologue from the point of view of:
  - a. Alberga, telling her why she has to stop playing
  - b. Toni, describing why she should still be allowed to play

### Alternate Endings

Choose an important scene from the play, and in a small group, brainstorm other directions the scene could have taken. Create a script and reenact the scene.

Examples:

- When negotiating her position on the team, Toni agrees that the opposing pitchers will give her slower pitches. What if the opposing managers said "no" and continued throwing fast pitches?
- Alberga calls Syd to say that Toni is not going to play baseball anymore. What might have happened if Syd said "no" or Toni defied her husband?



## Journal Prompts

1. Why do you think Lydia Diamond only focused on Toni's experiences as an Indianapolis Clown?
2. Pick a side and debate: Toni tells Alberga he should not have confronted Woody. Do you believe that Alberga was out of place for approaching Woody?
3. What little known historical figure, like Toni Stone, deserves to have the spotlight and a play written about their life? What part of their story would you tell, and why?
4. In the 1950s, in Marion County, where the play takes place, the population of non-white people was 24%. During the same time, in Gary, Indiana, the population of non-white people was 55%. How would the players be treated if this play was set in Gary County, instead of Marion County?



The cast and creative team of *Toni Stone*  
Photo by Michael Brosilow

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