

If Battered Glove Could Only Talk



Name _____

Match the vocabulary word in the left column with the definition in the right column by writing the correct letter in the middle column. Use different cues to help predict the meaning of each word.

Vocabulary		Definition
1. locality		a) a part of a whole
2. leisure		b) demanded
3. pursuit		c) well known; respected
4. portion		d) not supporting either side
5. realized		e) attracting interest
6. appeal		f) to make sure
7. insisted		g) a problem that makes things difficult or impossible
8. neutral		h) free time with nothing to do
9. illustrious		i) a particular area
10. barrier		j) following or chasing someone or something
11. unfortunately		k) became aware of something; fully understood
12. to ensure		l) something unlucky has happened

B. Place the vocabulary words in the blanks.

to ensure	barrier	neutral	appeal	portion	leisure
locality	pursuit	realized	insisted	illustrious	unfortunately

1. This plant only grows in one _____.
2. The lions were running through the savanna in _____ of a zebra.
3. In her _____, she likes to play the piano or go to the movies.
4. He only ate a small _____ of the pie because he wasn't feeling well.
5. My grandfather has had an _____ career.
6. I never _____ how much a baby ate until I babysat my cousin.
7. He checked the temperature of the water _____ that it was warm enough for the children to swim.
8. Although I am adventurous, I cannot understand the _____ of bungee jumping out of a plane.
9. Even though I was not hungry, my grandmother _____ that I eat.
10. She remained _____ while her brothers argued.
11. We were supposed to travel to Niagara Falls last weekend, but _____ our car broke down.
12. When seeking volunteers for an outdoor art fair, weather is often a _____.



Our Heritage

If battered glove could only talk

Black team saw glory and woe

It's not really much to look at. It's just an old, beat-up rather pitiful looking baseball glove. In fact, it's so different in appearance from a modern day glove that it almost has a surreal look to it.

It now rests in "retirement" at Chatham's W.I.S.H. Centre in the Heritage Room, but we're sure it's aching to come out of its forced leisure and tell of the days when it was the property of one Kingsley Terrell and the things it saw in the 1930s.

Kingsley Terrell was a third basemen who sometimes took his turn on the pitching mound for the legendary Chatham Coloured All Stars.

He was one of the black athletes of the day who decided that they should put their talents together, form a ball team, find a park to play in (Stirling Park) and enter into some serious competition. In 1933 the Chatham All Stars



LISA and JIM GILBERT

made it to the finals of the Ontario Baseball Association Intermediate playoffs and they knew that with a little more luck they had a real shot at going all the way.

During their 1934 pursuit of an Ontario championship, the tram got to travel around a good portion of Ontario and if they had not known it before they soon realized that they were not your normal baseball team.

Everywhere they went they were treated differently. On the field they were always the heroes and had huge crowd appeal. In every ball park they played in, the crowds came out to see them and, for the most part, to cheer them.

However, once they left the baseball diamond, it was a whole new story.

The Chatham Coloured All

Stars were not welcome to eat at many restaurants.

Long road trips had to be planned well in advance to ensure that the locality had a restaurant that would serve them.

Trying to find a place to spend the night for the team also presented some real problems.

Some motels refused to have them stay at all while others insisted that they arrive well after dark in order that their white guests would never know that blacks were also staying at the same place.

When fall of 1934 rolled around the All Stars were down to the Ontario finals playing against a strong team from Penetang.

The first two games were split and, the third ended in a 2-2 tie. The final game was played in neutral territory, in Guelph, and the All Stars came ready to play.

The final score of the deciding Ontario Championship game was 13-7 in favour of the Chatham All Stars.

Pitching that day for Chatham was Earl (Flat) Chase who out-pitched Penetang's pitching sensation Phil Marchildon, and in later years, went on to have a long and

illustrious career in the American League playing for the Philadelphia Athletics.

This fact, of course, begs the question: How many of the Chatham All Stars were good enough to play in the big leagues if there had not been a colour barrier?

Teammates of Terrell and Chase including Wilf (Boomer) Harding, Len Harding, Goy Ladd and Ross Talbot unfortunately never got their chance to at least be denied a spot in the majors due to their performance. Their ineligibility was never in question.

When the Ontario champions arrived back home from Guelph after their victory that evening it was near midnight.

Nevertheless, their motorcade was met by hundreds at the city limits and escorted to the site of the old Fifth Street Bridge.

Here, Chatham Mayor Isaac Davis stood on the hood of a car and greeted the new champions. In his brief speech, he stated that "Chatham will win other ball championships but we'll always remembered it was the coloured boys who led the way."

At a civic reception held later on

that fall, the coach of the All Stars, Happy Parker, stood up and graciously thanked the City of Chatham for its support of the team.

He then went on to voice what many of the 175 black families living in Chatham's east end and the many other families at Buxton, Dresden and other locales must have had on their minds for a long time.

"We thank you," Coach Parker began, "for the fine banquet and the wonderful support ... now would it be too much to ask if you could give these same boys a chance to work at some of the places they just can't get into now?"

An affirmative answer to that question took a long time coming and some might contend that a totally positive response is still being awaited.

Is it any wonder then that Kingsley Terrell's glove, although full of sweet memories, still looks slightly battered and more than a little forlorn?

• Lisa and Jim Gilbert are local historians.

Flashbacks

Answer the following questions about the article.

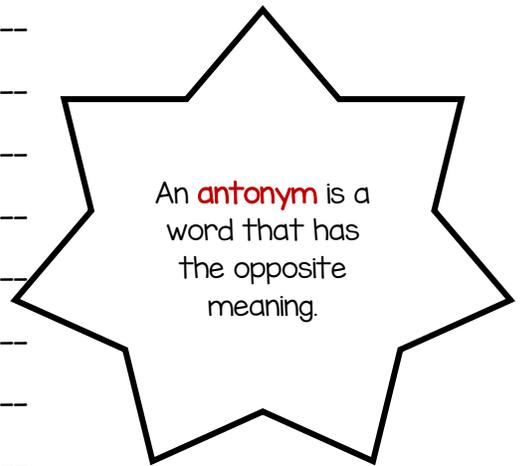
What is the title?	
When was it written?	
Who is the author?	
In which newspaper did it appear?	
What is the main message of the article?	

“Black team saw glory and woe”

glory – success, honour, praise
woe – misery, great pain, heartache } **antonyms**

C. Find antonyms (opposites) for the following words in the article.

1. alike _____
2. apart _____
3. misfortune _____
4. never _____
5. granted _____
6. weak _____
7. unknown, lackluster _____
8. lengthy _____
9. forgotten _____
10. negative _____



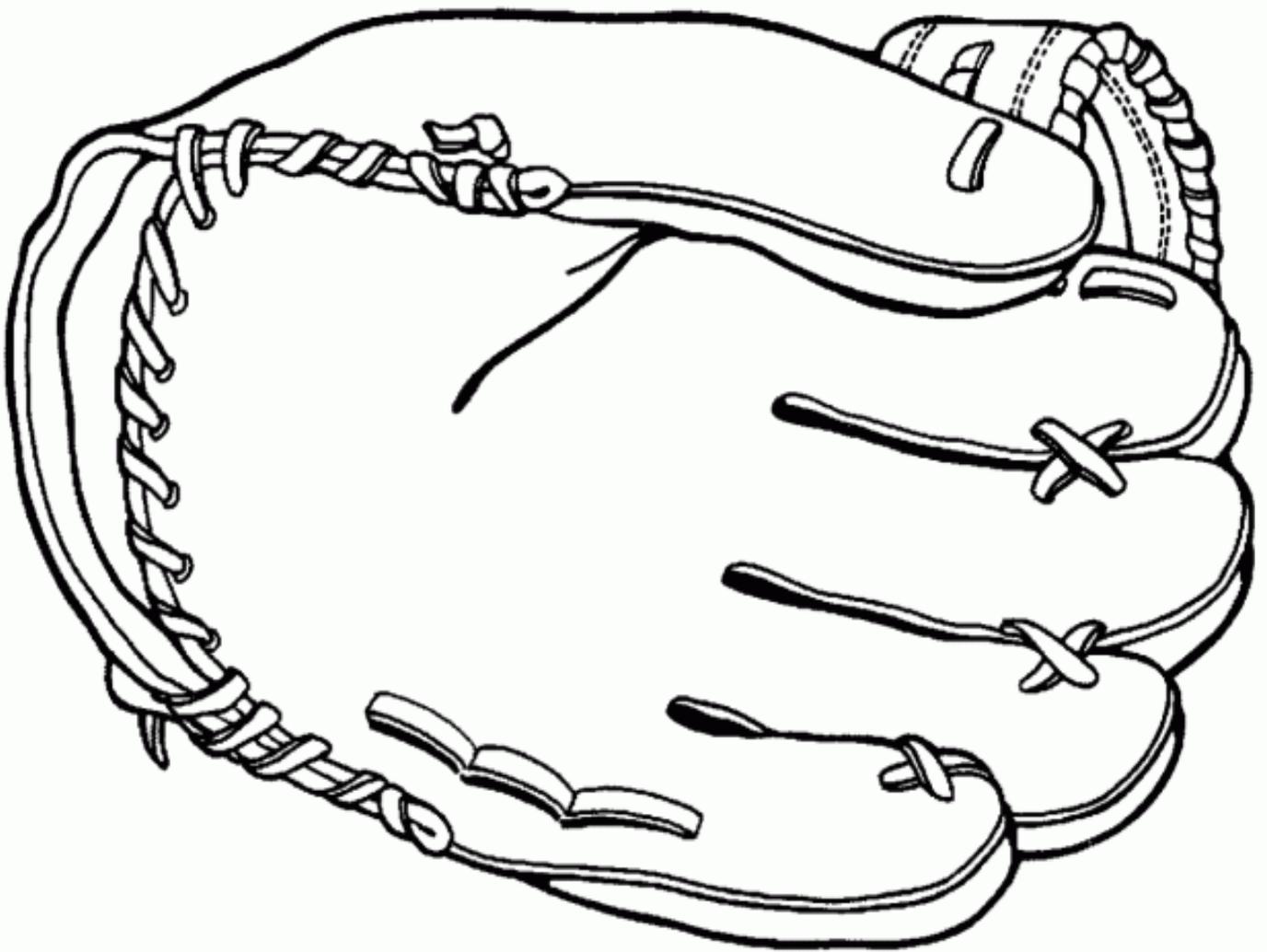
C. Respond to the following questions using complete sentences.

1. From the article “*IF battered glove could only talk*,” find three examples of racial discrimination that the Chatham Coloured All-Stars experienced.

2. What did you learn about the experiences of Black people living in Chatham in the early to mid-1900s?

3. Why do you think there was a colour barrier in baseball?

4. You are going to imagine that the baseball glove can talk. What would it say? On the baseball glove template, write at least three sentences. The information must be accurate, descriptive, and in your own words. When finished, colour the glove.



Star treatment

Monday, July 15, 2002
C. D. News

1934 Chatham Colored All-Stars' surviving members overwhelmed by salute to their historic championship

By Mark Malone
The Daily News

TORONTO — Don Tabron and Sagasta Harding couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

They were just a couple of good ball players on a great team.

Surely they didn't deserve to be treated like Hall of Famers by the Toronto Blue Jays or escorted onto the SkyDome field while thousands cheered Saturday.

"It didn't seem like I was worth it," said Tabron, 86, of Detroit. "Just part of a team a long time ago."

Their children knew better.

So did their teammates' children. And grandchildren. And great-grandchildren.

They came from Chatham and Windsor, from Detroit and Ypsilanti, from Buffalo, N.Y., and Washington, D.C.

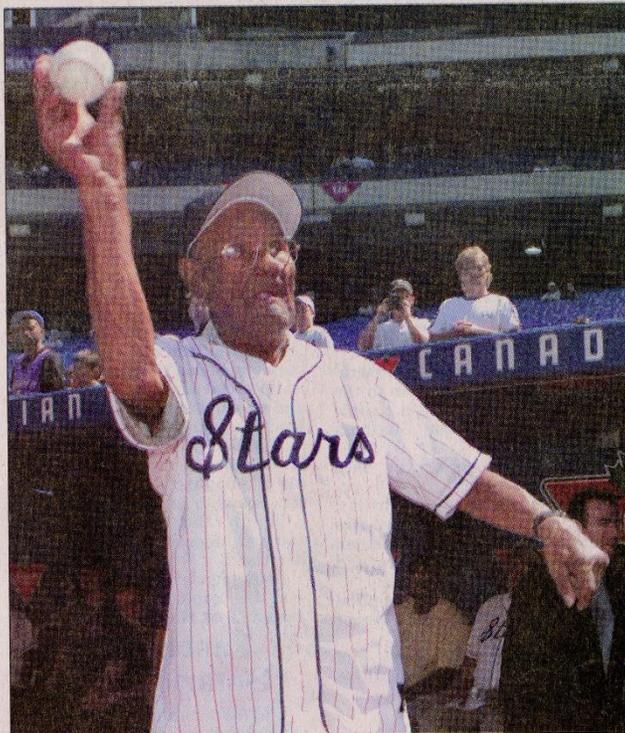
They came to see a tribute paid to the 1934 Chatham Colored All-Stars, a team which made history when black men had limited opportunities to make an impact.

The Colored All-Stars left their mark on baseball diamonds across Ontario. But their greatest legacy could be found Saturday in the stands.

Four generations of relatives, both blacks and whites, watched as the Blue Jays played the Boston Red Sox while wearing the uniforms of Ontario's first all-black baseball champions.

The Red Sox dressed in the road greys of the Boston Royal Giants.

"It's a chance to think about what those guys accomplished," said Chatham's Blake Harding, 54, whose father Wilfred and uncle Len played for the Colored All-Stars. "They just wanted to play baseball. But here we are years later — sons



Diana Martin Photo

SAGASTA HARDING GETS IN A PRACTICE THROW ...before taking part in first-pitch ceremony

and daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. It's pretty awesome that here they are in the SkyDome being honoured by major league baseball.

"It's one of those days when you sit back and realize life is pretty good."

Blake Harding wore a T-shirt with his father's name on the back. Later, he changed into another shirt that read, "I am Wilfred 'Boomer' Harding's son" on the front and "I am Len Harding's nephew" on the back.

Earl and Horace Chase handed

out buttons with a photo of their father, All-Stars legend Earl (Flat) Chase.

Down in the Blue Jays' dugout, 94-year-old Sagasta Harding sat next to grandson Robert Harding. Beside them was Don Tabron Jr. snapping pictures of his father.

Tabron Jr. grew up listening to his father — a shortstop and pitcher — talk about baseball. Stories of playing against Satchel Paige and visiting the segregated south with the Detroit Stars. Stories about the ugly racism he encountered in some towns and the kindness he found in others.

"All the stories he's told me, it's like he's finally getting his due for all the hard work he put in," said Tabron Jr., 23. "He's finally reaping the benefits."

Tabron and right-fielder Sagasta Harding are the only Colored All-Stars who lived long enough to see the team finally honoured by the baseball establishment.

Yet, there's no trace of bitterness. No sense of entitlement. Just gratitude for the surprising and long-deserved recognition.

"I didn't know what to think," said Harding of Romulus, Mich. "I know they've been awful nice to me here. And I do want to thank the participants who took part in this, to make this event real. This is once in a lifetime."

Not that he expected to see it in his lifetime.

"No, never," he said. "Never thought of it. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

The two Colored All-Stars, wearing replicas of their old jerseys, threw out the ceremonial first pitches. They were joined in the pre-game celebration by Horace Chase.

See STARS Page 12

Stars

Continued from Page 9

"(I was) very humbled, to tell you the truth," said Chase, 66, of Chatham. "I felt so honoured to be out there on the field. It was a life dream. A field of dreams, being out there with those two guys..."

"I think they were in awe. They were enjoying themselves so much, they were almost speechless. I told them, 'You've done so much, this is your reward.'"

Blue Jays pitcher Corey Thurman expressed the same sentiment upon meeting Tabron and Harding.

"It's an unbelievable feeling, being African-American and knowing what these guys had to go through," Thurman said. "Well, not really knowing because it was so tough, but they paved the way for people like myself and all African-American people in the game of baseball."

The Colored All-Stars, most of whom hailed from Chatham and North Buxton, began barnstorming across Ontario in 1932.

They joined Chatham's City Baseball League in 1934 and went on to win the provincial intermediate 'B' championship. The team disbanded in 1939, though several players got back together after the Second World War on the Chatham A.C. Taylors.

"(Pitcher) Flat Chase and (catcher) Don Washington, they were the backbone of the team," Tabron said. "Flat could have played on any team in the country. He was a pitcher and a hitter. He hit the longest balls in every park we had played in."

"He threw the ball so hard that nobody wanted to pinch hit against him. They refused to pinch hit when it started getting dark. In fact, in Chatham he hit one fellow and broke three ribs."

"Every park that we played in, it was a newspaper-type home run — hitting the ball out at dusk and getting it back in at dark."

When Chatham Coun. Larry Mansfield Robbins was a youngster, he and the other neighborhood kids took hitting lessons from Chase.

"He'd demonstrate how to hit the ball a mile," Mansfield Robbins said. "One of his favourite tricks was standing in his backyard on Foster Street and hitting the ball over the houses to Stirling Park."

Mansfield Robbins had two uncles, Stanton Robbins and Hyle Robbins, on the Colored All-Stars. He even has a medallion from Stanton Robbins commemorating the 1934 season that he sometimes wears on a chain.

He organized a bus trip taking 56 people from St. John's Lodge to the game. They were part of a Chatham contingent conservatively estimated at more than 300.

Total attendance was 28,112 on a warm and sunny day. On Sunday, the Blue Jays distributed comic books featuring the Colored All-Stars and the Toronto players.

"I'm glad the Blue Jays decided to do this while there's still two of them alive," Blake Harding said. "If they waited another year, they might not be here."

"To see the All-Stars and the Negro Leagues honoured the way they are today, it's very gratifying," added Toronto's Robert Browning, 59, son of Len Harding. "I'm very proud to know my father played for the team."

The Colored All-Stars never had the chance to take their careers much farther than Chatham. It wasn't until 1947 that Jackie Robinson broke baseball's colour line. By then, the All-Stars were well past their prime.

Tabron liked Flat Chase's chances of making the major leagues. He wasn't as positive about his own.

"I thought I might have made the No. 1 minor (league)," he said. "I thought my hitting as a short-stop would have kept me out of the majors. I was not a great hitter."

Back then, ball players were happy to find a diamond with some grass. Many fields were just dirt and gravel.

Tabron chuckled when asked how it felt to finally step onto a big-league field, with a retractable roof and artificial turf and seating for more than 50,000 fans.

"Wish I could have done it earlier in life," he smiled. "It's something you never anticipate doing. You wonder if you were worth all of that."

What is the title of the article?

Who is the author?

When was it written?

In which newspaper did it appear?

What is the main message of the article?

Star Treatment

D. After reading the article entitled "*Star Treatment*," respond to the following questions. All answers must be written in complete sentences.

1. Write three facts you learned about the Chatham Coloured All-Stars.

2. In your opinion, how have the Chatham Coloured All-Stars contributed to Canadian identity?

3. In your opinion, what qualities/character traits made the Chatham Coloured All-Stars successful?

4. How should the team be remembered?

Persuasive Letter Assignment

You are going to write a letter to Canada Post to suggest that the Chatham Coloured All-Stars appear on a Black History Month stamp. Canada Post issues an annual Black History Month stamp to commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians. You will also design and colour a stamp in honour of the team. The stamp will NOT be sent to Canada Post with your letter.

Your letter must include:

- a brief description of the subject
- their importance in the Canadian context
- any significant anniversaries or upcoming events



IMPORTANT: Annual stamp programs close in the summer of the year before the stamps are issued.

Canada Post Stamp Selection Criteria

Your suggested subject for a stamp should:

- have broad appeal to the Canadian population, encouraging Canadians of all ages to buy and collect stamps,
- relate primarily to Canada and be of national significance, such as:
 - evoke Canadian history, traditions, accomplishments or natural heritage,
 - illustrate the social, cultural, political or economic life of Canada, and
 - commemorate people (generally after their death), their work, their birth or a life event to recognize outstanding contributions to Canada.

All stamp subject suggestions should be directed to:

Chairperson of the Stamp Advisory Committee
CANADA POST CORPORATION
2701 RIVERSIDE DRIVE SUITE N1070
OTTAWA ON KIA 0B1

- Canada Post acknowledges all suggestions it receives. A copy of the public announcement of the subjects chosen for the annual stamp program will be sent to all those who suggested subjects related to that year's program.

Persuasive Letter Writing ~ Phrases and Words



Indent each paragraph!

Grab their attention!

Introductory paragraph

I am writing to...

I think that...

I feel that...

I strongly believe...

In my opinion...

I am certain...

Greetings

Dear Ms./Mrs./Mr. _____,

Dear Sir/Madam,

To make your case (reasons)

Firstly, secondly, thirdly...

Also...

Furthermore...

In addition...

Similarly...

Certainly...

Lastly...

Most of all...

Surprisingly...

Examples

For example...

In fact...

For instance...

Another...

Specifically...

In particular...

Other words to persuade

excellent

should

because

important

deserve

Remember to thank the reader for their time and consideration!

To summarize

In conclusion...

This is important because...

As you can see...

For these reasons...

Closing salutation

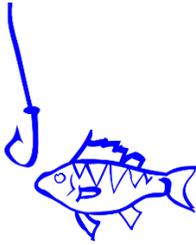
Sincerely,

Yours truly,

Yours respectfully,

Regards,

The HOOK



When writing a persuasive letter, you want an attention-grabbing hook at the beginning of your introductory paragraph.

Examples:

1 open with a question

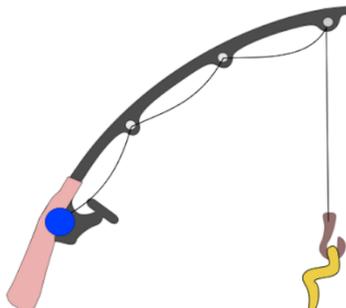
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go to Disney World?

2 open with a series of questions

Wouldn't it be amazing to go on a field trip to another country? Shouldn't young people explore the world and experience other cultures? Wouldn't that provide an authentic learning experience for students? If you answered yes, then allow me to explain why our annual class trip should be to Paris, France.

3 open with a bold statement

Contrary to popular belief, students should have to go to school during the summer months.



Persuasive Letter Layout

School name
School address
City, Province, Postal Code

Name of the Recipient
Address
City, Province, Postal Code

Date

Opening Salutation
(Dear Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. _____,

Introductory Paragraph (open with a hook, state your opinion on the topic and purpose of the letter)

Reasons and Examples (give three reasons to support how you feel and three examples to support your opinion)

Concluding paragraph (Restate your opinion with more feeling and thank the reader)

Closing salutation (Sincerely, Yours Truly, Yours Respectfully, Regards,)

Signature

Name

Persuasive Letter Organizer

[Empty box for recipient address]

[Empty box for salutation]

[Empty box for name]

[Empty box for opening sentence]

[Empty box for first body paragraph]

[Empty box for second body paragraph]

[Empty box for third body paragraph]

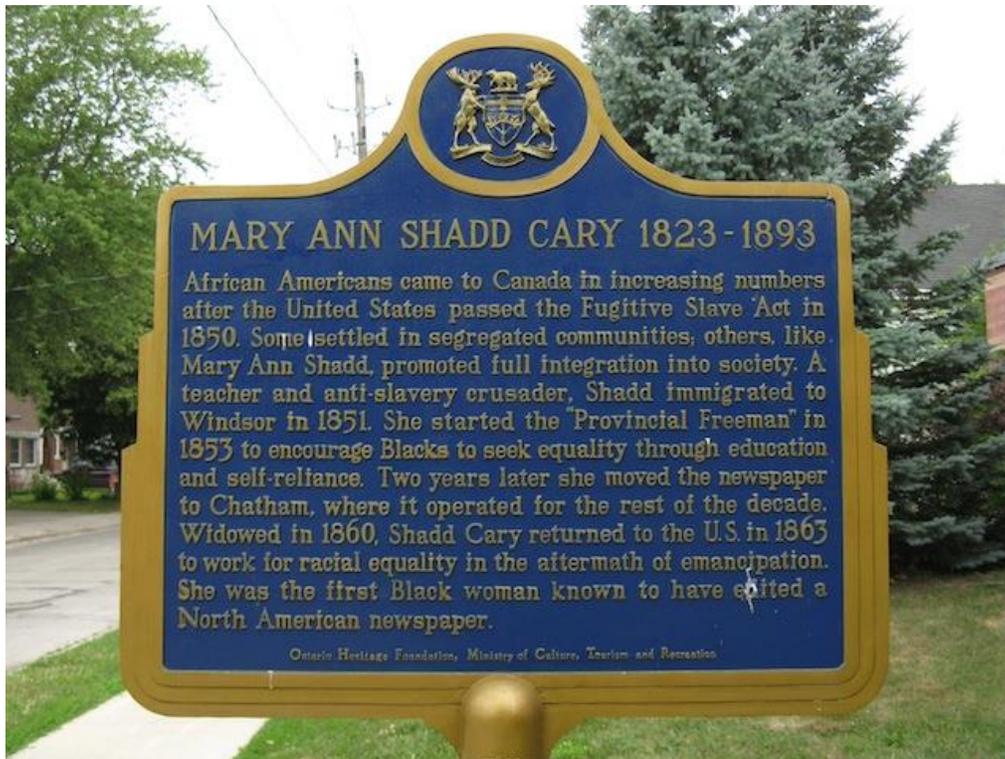
[Empty box for closing and signature]

Persuasive Letter Checklist

- My school name and school address is in the top right corner of the page.
- The name and address of the recipient is on the left side of the page.
- The date is on the left side of the page beneath the recipient's information.
- I used a salutation and appropriate title.
- I have clearly identified my audience.
- I have an attention-grabbing hook.
- I have clearly identified the purpose of my letter.
- I have stated my opinion on the topic.
- I have detailed reasons that make my argument more convincing.
- I used effective examples and facts.
- My closing paragraph restates my opinion.
- I thanked the reader.
- I used a closing salutation.
- I signed my name.
- My name is printed beneath my signature.
- Each paragraph has an indent.
- My letter is brief and convincing.
- The tone is respectful.

Create a Memorial Plaque in Honour of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars

Plaques make Ontario's history come alive by telling stories of the people, places and events that helped shape our province. They enrich our sense of place. They also introduce newcomers and visitors to the unique character of each region of the province. Here is an example of a provincial plaque:



who: Mary Ann Shadd Cary, a teacher, an anti-slavery crusader, an editor

what: She immigrated to Windsor. She started a newspaper, the *Provincial Freeman*. She was the first Black woman to have edited a North American newspaper.

where: United States, Windsor, Chatham

when: There are many significant dates on her plaque.

why: Her overall goal was to encourage Black people to seek quality through education and self-reliance.

My Provincial Plaque

Fill in this organizer with ideas and information you will include on your plaque in honour of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars.

Name _____

Who

What



Where

Why

When

Chatham Coloured All-Stars Plaque

Name _____

In the box, write the information that will appear on your plaque. Look it over and check spelling, grammar, and punctuation before writing the final copy on the plaque template. On the plaque template, the background must be coloured blue. Your text must be darker so that it is easy to read.

