

Robert Jackson was a great defender of freedom. He was born in 1892, about the time that the U.S. was becoming a world power and social movements were beginning in America. Jackson did well in school, but was expelled for leaving school after unfair treatment. He won his first case by persuading the board to let him back into school. He worked as a lawyer, helped Roosevelt with the New Deal, and served as Assistant Attorney General and Solicitor General under Roosevelt; he was made a Supreme Court Justice in 1941 (Jarrow 38, 53, 57). Robert H. Jackson fought all his life so that others' freedoms would be respected.

One of his first cases on the Supreme Court was *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnett*. This case began when two Jehovah's Witnesses whose faith did not allow them to salute the flag were expelled from school for not doing so (Gelfand 48). The Supreme Court ruling allowed them to return to school, a decision that reinforced the Constitution's promise of religious freedom. Today, in a time of uncertainty and war, the government has even more responsibility to ensure religious freedom in America.

Another freedom protected by the Constitution is freedom from unfair imprisonment. In 1941, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt ordered all Japanese-Americans to special camps. Japanese-American Fred Korematsu decided it wasn't fair that American citizens should be forced into these ten camps in which they were guarded, mistreated, and even shot (Stanley 41). In 1944, he appealed his case to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled 6-3 that in a time of war, the government could move citizens into camps. In the dissenting opinion, Jackson wrote that Korematsu "has been convicted of an act not commonly a crime.... because he belongs to a race from which there is no way to resign" (Jarrow 67). Jackson proved that win or lose, you should still stand up for what is right. Forty years later, the Supreme Court ruled that even in wartime, the government cannot take away the rights of Americans (Chin 96). Our government needs to remember this in the treatment of Middle Eastern people

during our War on Terror.

Jackson had many accomplishments in his life, including prosecuting Nazis at Nuremberg and defending civil rights in the *Brown v. Topeka* case. He died in 1954 after a lifetime of defending human rights. After his death a newspaper wrote "Jackson .... will be remembered for the vigor, the incisiveness, and the clarity of his thinking as a judge..." (Jarrow 108). His life shows us that we can make a difference as long as we try, and that we should treat others as the individuals they are, not as a color, a faith or as an enemy. Before I read Jarrow's book, I only knew of Jackson's career as a judge and a prosecutor. The book taught me much more about his life. I also see the book as an inspiration, because I enjoy history and would like to be an historian.