



Roberto Clemente: Hero and Friend

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Personal Connection:



Who are your heroes?



Why are they a hero?



Roberto's Early Life.

Vocabulary



dream



baseball



Puerto Rico



Roberto



hero



poor



determined



Roberto was born on August 18, 1934. He was



born on the island of Puerto Rico. Roberto's



family did not have much money. They were



poor. Roberto's dad worked very hard to take



care of his family. Roberto did not have enough



money to buy a real baseball and bat. He



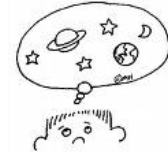
played baseball with his friends using a stick and



can.



Roberto would be a baseball player one day.



Roberto loved to play baseball. He dreamed of



being a baseball player. He thought baseball



players were heroes. He decided that he would



try hard. He was determined. Determined means



that he was not willing to change his mind.



Roberto would be a baseball player one day.



In high school, Roberto joined the baseball team.



Roberto was the fastest runner on the team. Roberto



knew he needed strong arms to throw the ball fast. To



make his arms stronger, he joined the track team. He



ran and practiced everyday. After lots of practice,



Roberto became one of the best players on the team.



Roberto would be a baseball player one day.

Roberto in the minor leagues.

Vocabulary



scout



Dodgers



team



prejudice



graduate



Pirates



One day, Roberto was playing baseball. A scout



was watching him play. A scout is someone who



watches new players to see if they are good enough to



be on a team. The scout's name was Zorilla. Zorilla



wanted Roberto to play baseball for the Brooklyn



Dodgers, minor league baseball team. Roberto was



good enough and started to play for the Dodgers. This



was Roberto's first baseball job, and he didn't make



very much money.



Roberto is a baseball player.



Roberto was still in high school. He tried out for



the major league baseball team. He was so fast



and could hit the ball so far, the league wanted



him to play with them. Roberto had to graduate



from high school first. In 1954, Roberto joined a



minor league baseball team in Canada to get



ready and practice.



Roberto is a baseball player.



Even though the Dodgers wanted Roberto to play with



them, there was prejudice. Prejudice is when



people are treated unfairly. There was prejudice



against Roberto because of his skin color. Baseball



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teams didn't want to have more than four black



players. The Dodgers already had four black players.



The Dodgers didn't want to lose any good players, so



they kept Roberto a secret.



Roberto is a baseball player.



A scout from the Pittsburgh Pirates found Roberto.



The scout saw what a great player he was. The



Pirates' team asked Roberto to play baseball for them.



In 1955, Roberto joined the Pirates. The Pirates were



one of the worst teams. They had lost 100 games.



They needed a good player. Roberto was a great

player!



Roberto is a baseball player.

Roberto's career with the Pirates.

Vocabulary



catch



people



World Series



MVP (Most Valuable Player)



Roberto played baseball very hard. He would catch



balls in the air and against the wall or fence. He did



whatever he needed to catch the ball. He hit the



balls far and hard. When he was not playing with the



Pirates, he went to Puerto Rico to play. On his break,



Roberto played baseball in Puerto Rico. He never



took a break. He wanted the people of Puerto Rico to



see him play baseball too. In 1966, an article said,



“Every Puerto Rican is a Roberto Clemente fan.”



Roberto was a baseball hero.



In 1960 and 1971, Roberto took the Pirates to the



World Series. The World Series is for the best



baseball teams in the United States. The Pirates won



both times. Roberto was chosen as the MVP (most



valuable player). The team loved Roberto. On



September 1972, Roberto hit his 300th baseball.



Roberto was a baseball hero.



Roberto was still setting dreams.

Vocabulary



dreams



Sports City



earthquake



Nicaragua



airplane



help



Roberto had dreamed of being a baseball player! Now



Roberto was a real baseball player. Roberto had



money now, and he wanted to build a CUIDAD



DEPORTIVA (Sports City) for the children of Puerto



Rico. He wanted other children to have dreams.



Roberto is a hero.



On December 23, 1972 there was an earthquake in



Nicaragua. Roberto had visited Nicaragua and met a



little boy there named Julio. Julio had been hurt in a



car accident and lost his legs. Roberto was going to



help him get artificial legs. Roberto was worried



about Julio and wanted to make sure he was ok.



Roberto is a hero.



On December 31, 1972, Roberto filled an airplane



with food and supplies to help the people in Nicaragua.



Roberto was going to fly to help them. The airplane



was very old, and it was not working well. Roberto's



family did not want him to fly in that airplane. They



were worried, but Roberto wanted to go help the



people, so he left. The airplane crashed into the



ocean, and Roberto died.



Roberto is a hero.



In 1973, he was the first Hispanic to be voted into the



Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is a place to



remember great baseball players. Today, Roberto is



remembered as a great athlete. There are many



schools and parks in the United States and Puerto Rico



named after Roberto Clemente.



Roberto is a hero.



In Carolina, Puerto Rico, where Roberto was born,



there is a big statue of him. A statue is a drawing



made out of a rock. The statue is at the entrance of



the Roberto Clemente Sports City. That was



Roberto's final dream come true!



Roberto is a hero.

Questions



Where was Roberto born?



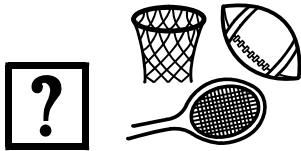
Canada



Puerto Rico



Nicaragua



What sport did Roberto play?



basketball



soccer



baseball



Why did people love Roberto?



helpful



loud



good singer