

Name _____

Date _____



Roberto Clemente

Growing up, I played a lot of baseball with my friends and my bros.
By high school, I stood out enough to play with the pros
But had my eyes on the US major leagues,
And thankfully, the scouts had their eyes on me.
At the age of 20, I finally signed
With the Brooklyn Dodgers
And played with their minor league team.
But that only lasted
A year before officially being drafted
Away by the Pittsburgh Pirates, who were last in the national league.
See, my life in the majors wasn't always a breeze.
I faced language barriers, and sports writers mocked
My English and even ignored me. I often faced discrimination,
Especially in Florida for spring training.
While my White teammates got to relax, well,
I was barred from the restaurants and the beaches and the hotels.
But eventually, things changed for the better.
Some days, I can't help but remember
How I started with sticks and cans
Cause we had no cash;
We made gloves from old coffee sacks and made baseballs from rags.

Sticks and cans to the pros. I hope to inspire.
If you don't make things better for those coming behind you,
You're wasting your time on Earth. To be greater,
Put others first, and you'll become something major.

Del barrio a los estadios solo quiero inspirar
Y ayudar a los demás. Para que lo puedan lograr
No pierdas tu tiempo. Para ser mejor,
Pon primero a los demás y serás algo mayor.

As my English improved, my play improved too
Because I was dedicated and I refused to
Quit. We won the World Series in 1960, and I quickly
Received recognition and awards.
But with fame and glory, I didn't forget my roots.
I helped talented Hispanics, future recruits.
And every winter, I returned to Puerto Rico
To mentor young people and run clinics.
I was proud of my heritage and spoke about discrimination.
Won the World Series again, and in front of the nation,
I spoke Spanish to my parents on TV—a watershed moment
For Spanish-speaking players like me.
Then later in 71, following massive earthquakes,
Nicaragua needed a helping hand,
So I flew there with aid, but the plane didn't land.
See, I died helping others the best way that I can.
In the year 1973, I became
The first Latino player inducted into the Hall of Fame.
And today, my legacy and my name lives on
Through an award
For sportsmanship and community involvement.

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