

Name _____ Date _____

Roberto Clemente

Do dreams sometimes come true? Roberto's dream did! Roberto	9
Clemente was born on August 18, 1934, in Puerto Rico. He loved	21
playing baseball. And his dream was to become a professional	31
baseball player!	33
When Roberto was fourteen, a softball player asked Roberto	42
to play on his team. On the field, Roberto was a true ballhawk.	55
What does that mean? He could catch nearly every ball that came	67
his way!	69
At age sixteen, Roberto joined a team in the minor leagues.	80
This was his big chance! Soon, scouts for American teams came to	92
see him. The Pittsburgh Pirates asked him to join their team.	103
In September of 1972, Roberto had just gotten his 2,999th hit.	114
He needed one more hit to reach 3,000. It was the last day of the	129
regular season. Would he do it?	135
Roberto did not get a hit in the first inning. His next time at bat	150
came in the fourth inning. The first pitch was a strike. On the next	164
pitch, Roberto hit the ball to left centerfield. He did it! He made hit	178
number 3,000!	180
Roberto went to second base. Time out was called. People in the	192
stands stood up. They cheered as the game stopped for a moment.	204
The other players cheered for Roberto and gave him the ball he hit.	217
Only ten players up to that time had gotten 3,000 hits. That was	230
a big day for Roberto!	235

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1 What is the MOST LIKELY reason the author wrote the article “Roberto Clemente”?

- Ⓐ to explain what a pitcher does
- Ⓑ to describe Roberto’s childhood
- Ⓒ to show how hard it is to get 3,000 hits
- Ⓓ to tell about a successful baseball player

2 Why was joining the minor leagues Roberto’s “big chance”?

- Ⓕ He played in front of scouts.
- Ⓖ He moved to Puerto Rico.
- Ⓗ He got to play centerfield.
- Ⓘ He met a softball player.

3 What is the meaning of the word *hit* as used in the sentence below?

In September of 1972, Roberto had just gotten his 2,999th hit.

- Ⓐ to win
- Ⓑ to arrive early
- Ⓒ to strike a blow
- Ⓓ to bat successfully

4 Which statement BEST expresses the theme of the passage?

- Ⓕ It’s important to play in the minor leagues.
- Ⓖ Not many baseball players get 3,000 hits.
- Ⓗ Roberto Clemente is from Puerto Rico.
- Ⓘ Dreams can come true.

5 Describe Roberto Clemente. Support your answer with details from the passage. Write your response on another sheet of paper.