

All About Roberto Clemente Common Core Literacy Scaffolding Questions

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Note to teachers and parents: The standards listed here are taken from the Common Core Standards: *Grades 6-12, Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects* from the subset standards for grades 6-8. The standards listed here are 6-8.1-6.8-10. These Common Core Standards can be viewed in greater detail at this website:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/>

Some states have decided not to adopt the Common Core standards, but the new state standards are uniformly similar. Teachers who choose to use these questions in a state that has not adopted Common Core standards are encouraged to apply their own state standards to these questions. Teachers who choose to use these questions for grades other than 6-8 can find all of the Common Core standards at: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>.

Teachers, please note that these questions are designed only to provide a very basic literacy scaffold and to provide examples. There is plenty of room for you to add your creativity and use your expertise to develop “why” questions and to help students make connections to other texts.

The questions below should be answered using a complete sentence and with textual evidence from the reading. The questions for the Preface are answered as examples.

Preface

1. What was one problem Roberto Clemente had when he came to the United States?

Sample Answer: Roberto Clemente spoke Spanish and most Americans spoke only English so “He could not communicate his feelings or even ask for directions or help.”

2. How did these experiences in the United States affect Clemente’s behavior when he became a wealthy baseball player?

Sample Answer: Roberto Clemente always remembered the people of Puerto Rico and “As he started becoming a famous athlete, Roberto wanted to help others. He handed out money to people who needed it.”

Chapter One

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5

1. Describe one aspect of Roberto Clemente’s early life.

2. What is one way that Roberto and his friends managed to make up for a lack of baseball equipment?
3. What changed about how Roberto Clemente's parents felt about baseball?

Chapter Two

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4

1. What was at least one problem that Roberto Clemente encountered while playing minor league baseball in Montreal?
2. Why was Jackie Robinson important?
3. How did Roberto Clemente end up playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates?

Chapter Three

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4.

1. In Pittsburgh, how was Roberto Clemente treated because of his ethnicity?
2. Analyze the picture on page 27; what does this indicate about the relationship between whites and African-Americans during this time period? Instead of including textual evidence in your answer, include at least one direct reference to the picture.
3. What was at least one thing that Roberto Clemente missed about Puerto Rico?

Chapter Four

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5

1. Give one example of Roberto Clemente's generosity towards the people of Puerto Rico after he made money playing baseball.
2. What is one way that Roberto Clemente interacted with kids who were his fans?
3. What was Roberto Clemente's dream for Puerto Rico?

Chapter Five

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3

1. What was at least one physical problem that Roberto Clemente had while playing for the Pirates?
2. Give one example of how the fans of the Pittsburgh Pirates started to embrace Roberto Clemente.
3. What happened to end game 7 of the 1960 World Series?

Chapter Six

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

1. Compare Roberto Clemente's feelings for his wife, Vera, with his feelings for Puerto Rico.
2. Which factor do you think was most responsible for ending segregation in professional baseball?
3. Roberto Clemente won the Most Valuable Player award in 1964. Given what you read in this chapter, why do you think this was so important to him?

Chapter Seven

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.3

1. Describe Roberto Clemente's relationship with his three sons.
2. Give one example of something about Roberto Clemente's personality that had changed by 1971.
3. After winning the 1971 World Series, how did Roberto Clemente address the press and why do you think he did this?

Chapter Eight

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

1. What two important baseball milestones did Roberto Clemente reach in 1972?
2. What caused Roberto Clemente to want to fly to Nicaragua to help people after the earthquake?
3. Give one example of how Roberto Clemente's family kept his legacy alive after his death.

Chapter Nine

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6

1. Give one example of how the Roberto Clemente Sports City was funded.
2. Roberto Clemente is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. What accomplishment in his life, either on or off the field, do you think is the most impressive?

Text and Visual Analysis Questions: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.4.

1. Look at the map on page 1 and identify where Puerto Rico is. Use an electronic device or classroom materials to research Puerto Rico's political relationship with the United States. Is it likely that Puerto Rico will ever become a 51st state?
2. **Activity Directions:** You are going to teach a literacy lesson about Roberto Clemente to a group of second graders. "Translate" the following passages from *All About Roberto Clemente* to present to these students. Use your knowledge of the book to provide context of understanding for the passage, then simplify the language of each passage while keeping the essential meaning. Use the glossary to help with the words.

Even after making it to the major league with the Pirates, Roberto remained an enigma to many fans. They did not know just how good he might be. Many of the white reporters continued to ignore him, and Roberto had not played as well as he could. At the end of his first season, one newspaper said his hitting remained a "question mark" (p. 42).

Essay

Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8

Read these excerpts from a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article titled *The day that baseball died: Happiness was Roberto Clemente and then he was gone*, published on Dec. 31, 2012. What does this article indicate about how Roberto Clemente's fans remember him and how does this article connect with what you read in *All About Roberto Clemente*? Provide an example of a "hero" from sports or elsewhere who elicits similar feelings in you in your answer. Include a clear thesis, one piece of textual evidence from the book, one piece of textual evidence from the article, and an example from your own life in your answer.

If you were a kid growing up in Pittsburgh 40 years ago, you probably feel a little different when New Year's Eve rolls around from the rest of the revelers out there. It was on Dec. 31, 1972, that Pirates Hall of Fame right fielder Roberto Clemente died in a plane crash while delivering relief supplies to earthquake-ravaged Nicaragua.

In those pre-Internet/Twitter days four decades ago, news didn't travel as fast as it does now so most of us didn't hear of the tragedy until the next day, New Year's Day. I was lying half-awake in my bed, trying to ignore the bright, mid-morning sun peeking through the curtains, when my 9-year-old brother burst into my room to tell me what he had heard from one of his neighborhood friends.

"Roberto Clemente is dead! He died in the ocean," he said.

Clemente was my favorite player. I remember bringing to my first Pirates game at Forbes Field a homemade sign that said "Happiness is Roberto Clemente." I was sitting down the first-base line hoping he would notice my sign but it was much too small for him to have possibly seen it. That was OK, though, because I was seeing him in person as he made those graceful basket catches in right field. I would attempt, unsuccessfully, to imitate Clemente's unique way of catching the ball when I was in Little League.

The next year, when the Pirates moved to Three Rivers, my dad took me to a game against the Mets on my birthday. The Bucs lost but Clemente hit a home run, pulling back in his patented spring-loaded batting stance and uncoiling a whip-like stroke that sent the ball soaring over the right-center-field fence. It felt like he had done it especially for me.

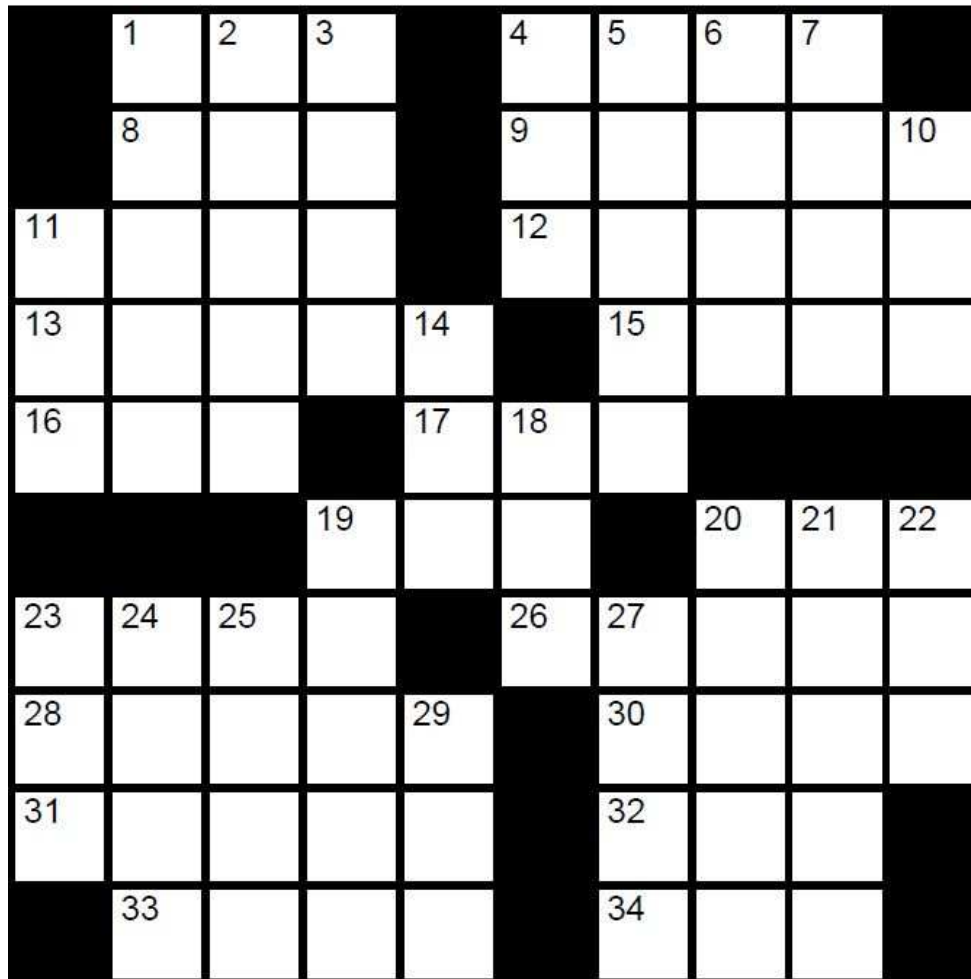
-Paul Guggenheimer



AIRPLANE
 ALL-STAR
 BASEBALL
 BAT
 GLOVE
 HALL OF FAME
 HIT
 LATINO

LUISA
 MAJORS
 MELCHOR
 MVP
 NICARAGUA
 OUTFIELD
 PENNANT
 PIRATES

PITTSBURGH
 PUERTO RICO
 RBI
 SPORTS CITY
 STADIUM
 UNIFORM
 VERA
 WORLD SERIES



Across

1. *Big Bang Theory* cable station inits.
4. Sound bounce-back
8. One of 3,000 for Clemente
9. Write-up on the back of this book
11. Mexican money
12. Light-model airplane wood
13. UPS truck color
15. Vending machine coin opening
16. U.S. legislator with a six-year term (Abbr.)
17. The Red Sox on scoreboards (Abbr.)
19. Small battery size
20. What a dog does for food
23. Haunted house sound
26. Divided Asian country
28. Swedish car maker
30. Young woman
31. Make a surprise visit (2 wds.)
32. Clemente's slugging stat. (Abbr.)
33. Norway's capital
34. Clown shoe width

Down

1. "Knock, knock, who's ___?"
2. Buffalo, by another name
3. Put away for storage
4. Type of ocean tide
5. Group of sixth graders
6. Ship's bottom
7. "...___ I'm told" (2 wds.)
10. Clemente's club
11. *Sesame Street* TV network
14. LeBron James' org. (Abbr.)
18. Tree with acorns
19. Blacksmith's iron block
20. To use money to convince someone
21. Like a cemetery at night
22. Guy's date
23. NL award won by Clemente in 1966
24. Football shutout, on a scoreboard
25. European mountain range
27. Fairy tale villain
29. John Lennon's musical wife: Yoko ___

