

# Introduction: On Deck

## Lesson 1: Character Composite Portrait

### Lesson Overview:

In this lesson, students will construct a character composite portrait, based on a description of Roberto Clemente. This activity is meant to be an introduction to Roberto Clemente.

### Standards:

The following National Standards in Language Arts will be addressed:

[NA-VA.5-8.2](#) Using knowledge of structures and functions

[NA-VA.5-8.3](#) Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

[NA-VA.5-8.5](#) Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

### Length of Lesson:

One class period

### Supplies:

- Activity Sheet – On Deck
- Drawing materials (i.e. pencil, paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, pastels, etc.)

### Instructional Plan:

Background Information:

Biographers and sportswriters have written about Roberto Clemente and his life. Who was this man? He was many things to many people. He was a father, husband, son, athlete, humanitarian and hero. Compose a character composite **portrait** of Roberto Clemente by using words that describe him. What can a portrait tell us that a biography or autobiography may not?

Activity Discussion:

- What is a **portrait**?
- How can we use written descriptions of Roberto Clemente to illustrate what he looked like?
- What kind of **iconography** or **symbols** can you think of that represent Roberto Clemente?
- Do colors have meanings? What are they?

Activity Instructions:

- Read description of Roberto Clemente from the activity sheet.
- Brainstorm about how athletes are portrayed.
- Discuss the purpose of using iconography and symbols to convey ideas visually.

- Complete a portrait of Roberto Clemente based on the description from the activity sheet.
- Show an image of Roberto Clemente from the website.

Wrap-Up:

- Students discuss lessons learned from this activity.
- Students discuss their own artwork and the specific choices they made when constructing a portrait of Roberto Clemente.

**Assessment:**

Student work should be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Participated in class discussions.
- Completed character composite portrait.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Composite Portrait

Using the brief description below as a guide, make a **portrait** of Roberto Clemente. Remember to use **iconography** and **symbols** to show your ideas.

- Roberto Clemente was a Puerto Rican of African descent.
- Height: 5'11
- Weight: 175 lbs.
- Baseball player
- Batted: Right
- Threw: Right
- He was a right fielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates
- He wore the number 21 on his uniform.
- "...that handsome Negro, so strong, so beautiful within and without." – Ruth Fernández  
Fernández was a singer and celebrity who lived in Puerto Rico and was a friend of Clemente.