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.
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
  Fernandez was a singer and celebrity who lived in Puerto Rico and was a friend of Clemente.