Roberto Clemente

Do dreams sometimes come true? Roberto’s dream did! Roberto Clemente was born on August 18, 1934, in Puerto Rico. He loved playing baseball. And his dream was to become a professional baseball player!

When Roberto was fourteen, a softball player asked Roberto to play on his team. On the field, Roberto was a true ballhawk. What does that mean? He could catch nearly every ball that came his way!

At age sixteen, Roberto joined a team in the minor leagues. This was his big chance! Soon, scouts for American teams came to see him. The Pittsburgh Pirates asked him to join their team.

In September of 1972, Roberto had just gotten his 2,999th hit. He needed one more hit to reach 3,000. It was the last day of the regular season. Would he do it?

Roberto did not get a hit in the first inning. His next time at bat came in the fourth inning. The first pitch was a strike. On the next pitch, Roberto hit the ball to left centerfield. He did it! He made his 3,000th hit.

Roberto went to second base. Time out was called. People in the stands stood up. They cheered as the game stopped for a moment. The other players cheered for Roberto and gave him the ball he hit. Only ten players up to that time had gotten 3,000 hits. That was a big day for Roberto!
Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

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

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.

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

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.

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