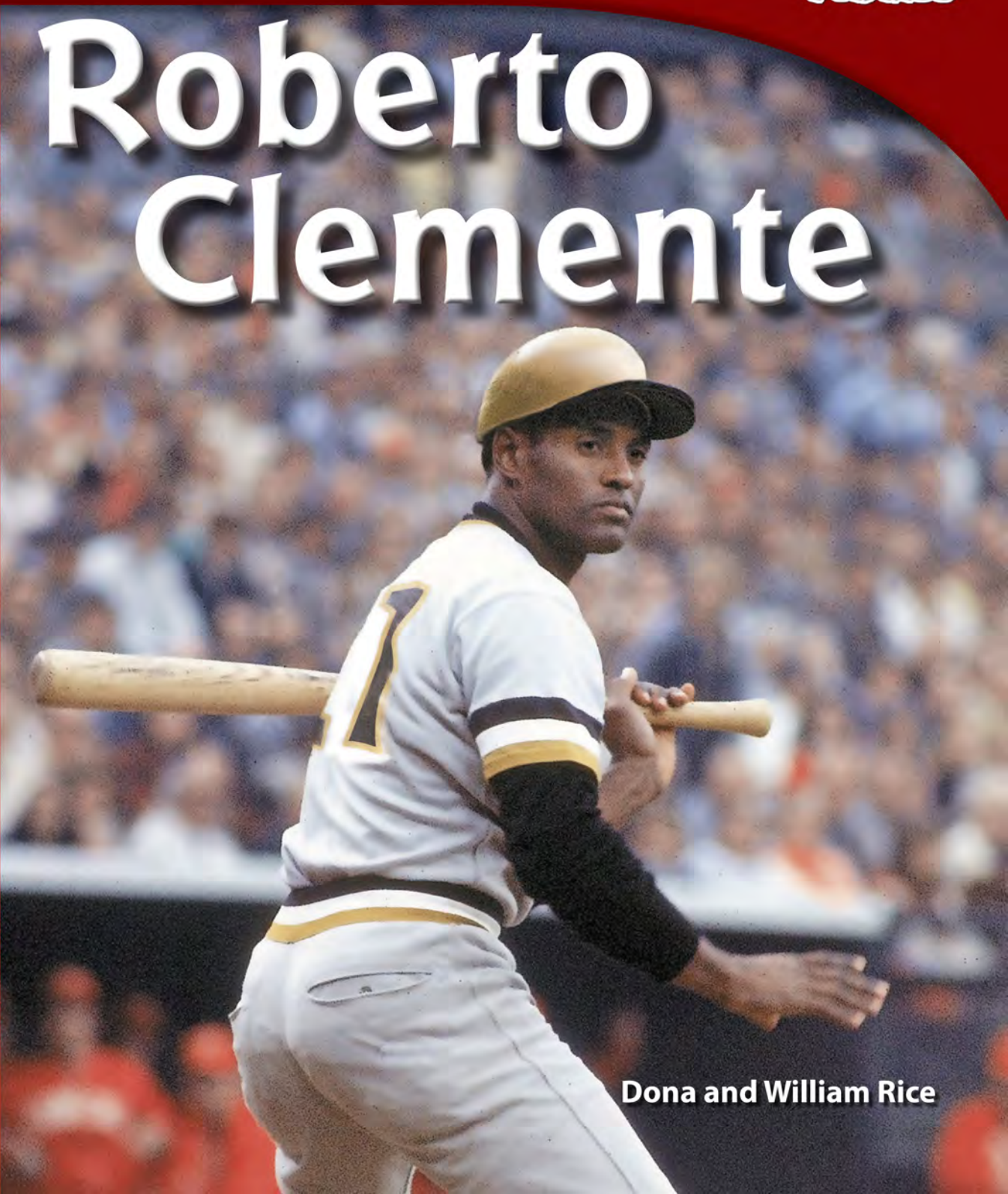
TIME FOR KIDS

Roberto Clemente



Dona and William Rice

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The Pride of Puerto Rico

On August 18, 1934, something wonderful happened for Melchor (mel-CHOR) and Luisa Clemente. They had their fifth child, Roberto Clemente Walker, in the town of Carolina, Puerto Rico. Little did they know that one day their beautiful son would be known as the Pride of Puerto Rico.



Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Nestled between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, you will find a beautiful tropical paradise. It is the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is officially called the *Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.* In Spanish, the language spoken by most Puerto Ricans, it is called the *Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico*. Puerto Rico is under the protection and leadership of the United States of America. Some people think that Puerto Rico may one day be the 51st state of the United States.



Latino Names

It is common for **Latino** children to be given their mother's **maiden name** following their own last name. That is why Roberto was also named Walker, his mother's maiden name, although his family name was Clemente.

Years ago, the **fertile** ground of Puerto Rico was dotted with sugar and coffee plantations. Many Puerto Ricans worked on the **plantations** or at the mills that made the sugar and coffee. Roberto's father was one of those workers.

A good and proud man in his mid-fifties, Melchor was a **foreman** at a Puerto Rican sugarcane mill. His wife, Luisa, did the laundry for the owner of the mill. Melchor and Luisa also ran a small grocery store.

the central mountains of Puerto Rico



coffee plant

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a worker in a sugar cane field



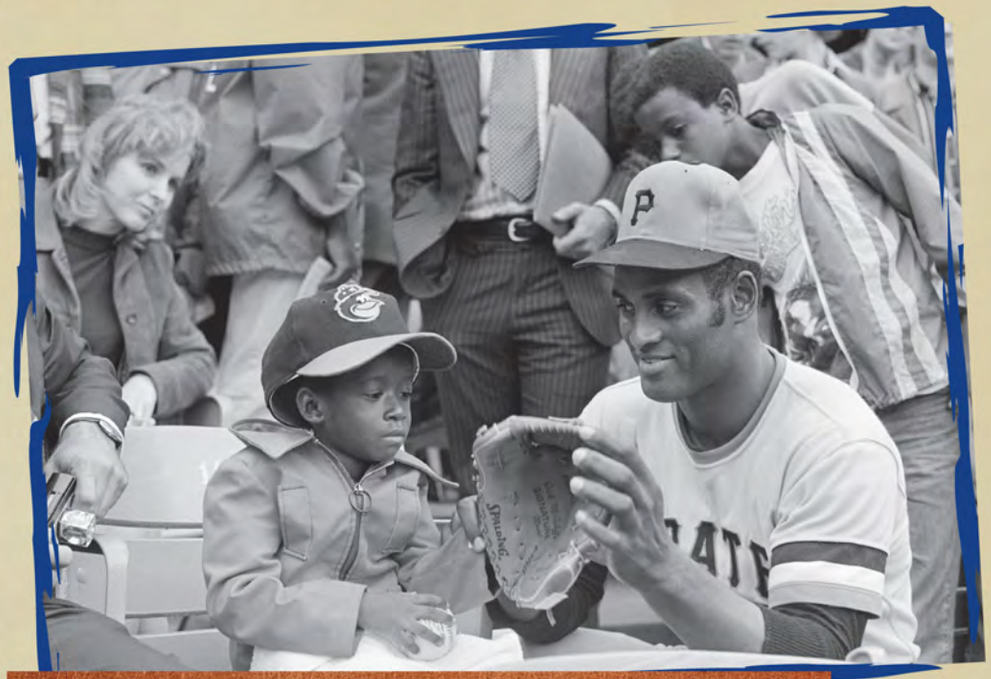
Business in Puerto Rico

At the time of Roberto's birth, farming was the most common business in Puerto Rico. In the 1950s, industry replaced farming as the leading business. Tourism also became very important, with more than five million tourists visiting the island every year.

Nothing but Love

Young Roberto grew up with nothing but love in his home. As an adult, he said, "I never heard any hate in my house. Not for anybody."

Roberto's parents taught him to be a good person. They taught him to treat himself and others with respect and dignity, and they taught him the importance of hard work.



A Lesson Remembered

When Roberto grew up, he ran baseball clinics for children in Puerto Rico. In the clinics, he taught children the importance of hard work, respect, and being a good citizen. He never forgot the lessons of his childhood, and he wanted to be sure those lessons were shared and continued with others.



The Clemente family was also very generous. When poor children came to their home, Luisa fed them a good meal. Roberto learned that people who have been blessed with good fortune should share what they have with those less fortunate. This was a lesson that Roberto would always remember.

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