**Your Task:** Read the article and write a one- or two-sentence summary of what it says.

**Before you do the task:**

1. Newspaper articles give you many clues about what an article is about even before you start reading. For instance, look at the headline: What hints does it give you about what you’re going to read?
2. Read the article with these questions in mind: What is this piece mainly about? What is the central message or idea? What details support that idea? As you go, underline the sentences or details you think are most important.
3. What ideas are repeated throughout the piece, or described in many different ways? Finding those will often help you zero in on the “main idea” of a piece.
4. Turn to a partner and practice describing the piece orally in a few sentences before you write. What are the most important ideas and details to get across? Then, listen to him or her do the same. What did the two have in common? What “main ideas” did you both emphasize? Why?

September 22, 2013

**A Final Bow for Rivera**

**By JORGE ARANGURE Jr.**

Sunday afternoon at Yankee Stadium was undoubtedly Mariano Rivera’s moment — the gifts, the recorded tributes, the standing ovations — although it might have also been a day to remember and to wistfully say goodbye to a great Yankees era that slowly, and inevitably, is coming to an end.

Rivera was honored by the Yankees for his 19 remarkable seasons with a 50-minute retirement ceremony that delayed the start of Sunday’s game against the San Francisco Giants by nearly an hour. Hardly anyone seemed to care. Yankee Stadium, which for most of the season has failed to sell out consistently, was packed nearly 30 minutes before the 1:05 p.m. scheduled start time.

The ceremony began with Rivera in Monument Park as his plaque and number were added to the other 16 players and managers honored with such a distinction. Since the No. 42 uniform has already been retired by baseball in remembrance of Jackie Robinson, the Yankees switched the number from Dodger blue to Yankee navy. Rivera is the first active player to be honored in Monument Park.

Rivera remained in the bullpen as the masters of ceremony, John Sterling and Michael Kay, introduced guests, who included several former teammates; the former manager Joe Torre; Rivera’s wife and children; and Jackie Robinson’s widow, Rachel.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg declared Sept. 22 as “Mariano Rivera Day.”

After a tribute video, a recording of the longtime Yankees public address announcer Bob Sheppard introduced Rivera.

The most peculiar part of the ceremony was during the first chords of his entrance song, “Enter Sandman,” which the rock band Metallica performed live in center field. The music played before the start of the game, when there was no lead to protect.

When the song began, Rivera walked toward the mound to a loud ovation.

“I was nervous for him,” the former Yankees catcher Jorge Posada said. “I got caught up in the moment. Super emotional.”

Rivera stood on the mound for several moments as fans continued to cheer. After being presented with several gifts — a personalized guitar, a rocking chair, a crystal replica of his game glove, and a framed copy of his number in Monument Park — and after his current Yankee teammates came out from the dugout and stood in the infield, Rivera was given the microphone.

“The Lord has blessed me with a great family,” Rivera said as he looked toward his teammates. “All these men have been part of my family. I love you guys, and you are all special to me and my family.”

He then looked to the fans.

“It’s been a great run, guys,” Rivera said. “You guys have been amazing. You will always be part of my heart. You have taken me in like one of you guys, and I do appreciate that.”

Rivera also spoke directly to Rachel Robinson.

“I would’ve loved to have met Mr. Jackie Robinson,” Rivera said. “But it’s a great pleasure and an honor to be the last M.L.B. player to ever wear No. 42. Even though I never met him, he has been a hero and inspiration for me. And I thank Mr. Jackie Robinson for that.”

After this season, Derek Jeter — if he exercises his player option or signs a new deal with the Yankees — will be the lone remaining member of the 1996 World Series championship team. And the expiration date on his career is nearing as well.

But on Sunday, the celebrated core four — Rivera, Jeter, Posada and Andy Pettitte — and Bernie Williams were all on the field at the same time again. All of them a little older, some with a bit more gray hair and all of them seemingly on the verge of tears as the years began to creep back.

“It was very nostalgic for me,” Torre said of the ceremony. “Baseball, while you’re doing it, you think it’s going to last forever. Then some guys just drop out and move on. When you bring everyone together, it conjures up all those memories.”

As a player, Williams said he rarely had an opportunity to think about the group’s legacy. After all, they still had games to play and more titles to try to win.

“Now that I’ve been a couple years out of the game, I’ve been able to do that and the more proud I feel to be part of this organization that really knows how to reward their heroes,” Williams said. “It was a great example of it today. This sets a precedent. I don’t think I’ve seen a guy having a retirement ceremony and the year is not even over. He is still pitching today. It’s just the way the Yankees do things. They know how to do things like that.”

After nearly an hour of being honored, Rivera thanked the Giants for their patience with such a long delay to the game. Finally, he said, it was time to think about the important business of trying to get the Yankees to the playoffs.

“Let’s play ball,” Rivera told the crowd. “We gotta go. I love you guys, thank you very much!”Hours later, Rivera got to once again close out the game, but this time there was no save. Just a Yankees loss.