

basketball sonnet poem

basketball sonnet poem is a unique fusion of sports and classical poetry, combining the rhythmic elegance of a sonnet with the dynamic energy of basketball. This article explores the concept of a basketball sonnet poem, highlighting its literary structure alongside thematic elements drawn from the game. By examining how poetic devices can capture the intensity, passion, and culture of basketball, the article offers insight into a creative way of expressing sports through verse. Additionally, it discusses the historical background of sonnets, the relevance of basketball as a cultural phenomenon, and practical tips for writing a basketball-themed sonnet poem. Readers will also find examples of famous sonnets adapted to basketball themes, showcasing how the sport's essence can be immortalized in fourteen lines of poetry. This comprehensive overview serves as a valuable resource for poets, sports enthusiasts, and educators interested in the intersection of literature and athletics.

- Understanding the Basketball Sonnet Poem
- Structure and Features of a Sonnet
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- Writing a Basketball Sonnet Poem: Tips and Techniques
- Examples of Basketball Sonnet Poems
- Impact and Cultural Significance

Understanding the Basketball Sonnet Poem

The basketball sonnet poem is an innovative literary form that merges the traditional structure of a sonnet with the contemporary theme of basketball. This form leverages the disciplined format of fourteen lines, typically written in iambic pentameter, to articulate the vibrant and fast-paced world of basketball. By doing so, it provides a fresh perspective on the sport, highlighting both its physicality and its emotional resonance. The basketball sonnet poem appeals not only to poetry enthusiasts but also to sports fans, creating a bridge between two seemingly different worlds. Through metaphor, imagery, and rhythm, these poems celebrate the game's artistry, the players' dedication, and the electrifying atmosphere of the court.

Definition and Origins

A sonnet is a poetic form that originated in Italy during the 13th century and was popularized by poets such as Petrarch and Shakespeare. The basketball sonnet poem specifically adapts this classical form to explore themes related to basketball, such as competition, teamwork, perseverance, and triumph. While traditional sonnets often focus on love or nature, the basketball sonnet poem expands the scope of sonnet content to include modern sports narratives, making it a contemporary poetic

innovation.

Why Combine Basketball and Sonnets?

The combination of basketball and sonnets offers a unique creative challenge and opportunity. Sonnets demand precision in language and structure, which contrasts intriguingly with the spontaneous and unpredictable nature of basketball. This juxtaposition enhances the expressive power of both the sport and the poem, allowing for a deeper appreciation of basketball's poetic qualities, such as rhythm, flow, and emotional highs and lows.

Structure and Features of a Sonnet

Understanding the structural elements of a sonnet is essential to crafting a basketball sonnet poem. Sonnets traditionally consist of fourteen lines written in iambic pentameter, a rhythmic pattern that features five pairs of alternating unstressed and stressed syllables. Sonnets are categorized primarily into two types: the Shakespearean (or English) sonnet and the Petrarchan (or Italian) sonnet, each with distinct rhyme schemes and thematic divisions.

Shakespearean Sonnet Structure

The Shakespearean sonnet comprises three quatrains followed by a final rhymed couplet. Its rhyme scheme is ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. The three quatrains typically develop a theme or problem, while the concluding couplet provides a resolution or commentary. This structure is well-suited for exploring basketball's evolving dynamics within a game or a player's journey.

Petrarchan Sonnet Structure

The Petrarchan sonnet is divided into an octave (eight lines) and a sestet (six lines), with a rhyme scheme of ABBAABBA for the octave and various patterns such as CDECDE or CDCDCD for the sestet. The octave presents a situation or problem, while the sestet offers a response or reflection. This format can effectively capture the tension and release inherent in basketball, such as the buildup to a critical play followed by its outcome.

Key Poetic Elements

- **Iambic Pentameter:** The meter that gives the sonnet its characteristic rhythm.
- **Rhyme Scheme:** The arrangement of rhymes that structure the poem's melody.
- **Volta:** The "turn" or shift in thought, typically occurring between the octave and sestet or before the final couplet.
- **Imagery and Metaphor:** Essential for evoking vivid pictures and emotions related to basketball.

Thematic Elements in Basketball Sonnets

Basketball sonnet poems are rich with themes drawn from the sport's physical, emotional, and cultural dimensions. These themes reflect not only the gameplay itself but also the broader human experiences intertwined with basketball.

Competition and Rivalry

Rivalry and the competitive spirit are central to basketball and provide fertile ground for poetic exploration. Sonnets can dramatize the tension between opposing teams or players, emphasizing determination, strategy, and the quest for victory.

Teamwork and Unity

Basketball is inherently a team sport, and sonnets can celebrate the camaraderie and cooperation that drive success on the court. The poetry may highlight the interdependence of players and the shared goals that foster unity.

Perseverance and Resilience

The challenges faced by basketball players—injuries, losses, and setbacks—are common themes in sonnets. Poems can illustrate the resilience required to overcome adversities and continue striving toward excellence.

Joy and Celebration

Moments of triumph, scoring, and victory inspire sonnets full of exhilaration and joy. The vivid imagery of the crowd's roar, the ball swishing through the net, and the euphoria of success can be powerfully conveyed through poetic language.

Writing a Basketball Sonnet Poem: Tips and Techniques

Composing a basketball sonnet poem requires attention to both the formal constraints of the sonnet and the vivid depiction of basketball themes. The following tips and techniques facilitate the creation of a compelling basketball-themed sonnet.

Master the Sonnet Form

Familiarity with sonnet structure, meter, and rhyme scheme is crucial. Writers should practice iambic

pentameter and experiment with both Shakespearean and Petrarchan forms to determine which best suits their thematic intent.

Use Vivid Imagery and Metaphors

Employing strong sensory details and metaphorical language helps bring basketball scenes to life. For example, comparing a slam dunk to a thunderclap or describing the court as a battlefield enriches the poem's impact.

Incorporate Basketball Terminology

Integrating basketball-specific vocabulary—such as dribble, pivot, fast break, or buzzer beater—adds authenticity and immerses the reader in the sport's environment.

Focus on Emotional Resonance

Beyond technical descriptions, the poem should convey the emotional highs and lows experienced by players and fans alike. This emotional depth elevates the sonnet from a mere description to an evocative work of art.

Draft and Revise

Given the sonnet's complexity, multiple drafts are often necessary. Revising for meter, rhyme, and clarity ensures the poem meets the form's demands while delivering a powerful basketball narrative.

Examples of Basketball Sonnet Poems

Examining example basketball sonnet poems illustrates how writers successfully blend form and theme. These samples demonstrate a range of approaches, from narrative storytelling to abstract reflection.

Example 1: The Final Shot

This Shakespearean sonnet captures the tension and drama of a game-winning shot, using vivid imagery and a dramatic volta to heighten suspense.

Example 2: Court of Dreams

A Petrarchan sonnet that reflects on the journey of a young player aspiring to greatness, highlighting themes of perseverance and hope.

Example 3: Rhythm of the Game

An abstract sonnet focusing on the movement and rhythm of basketball, employing metaphor to liken the game to a dance or song.

Key Takeaways from Examples

- Use of vivid, sport-related imagery to engage readers.
- Effective deployment of volta to introduce shifts in tone or perspective.
- Successful adherence to sonnet meter and rhyme schemes while conveying dynamic basketball themes.

Impact and Cultural Significance

Basketball sonnet poems contribute to both literary and sports cultures by offering a novel medium for expression. They encourage appreciation of basketball beyond its physical aspects, highlighting its artistry and emotional depth. This poetic form also serves educational purposes, promoting literacy and creative writing through the popular theme of sports. Moreover, basketball sonnet poems foster cultural dialogue, connecting diverse audiences through shared experiences of competition, teamwork, and passion. As this niche genre grows, it continues to inspire poets and players alike, enriching the cultural landscape with its unique blend of tradition and innovation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a basketball sonnet poem?

A basketball sonnet poem is a creative poem that combines the traditional structure of a sonnet, typically 14 lines with a specific rhyme scheme, with themes and imagery related to basketball.

How can I write a basketball sonnet poem?

To write a basketball sonnet poem, start by understanding the sonnet form (such as Shakespearean or Petrarchan), then incorporate basketball-related vocabulary, metaphors, and imagery into the 14 lines, maintaining the rhyme scheme and meter.

What themes are commonly explored in basketball sonnet poems?

Common themes in basketball sonnet poems include teamwork, competition, perseverance, passion for the game, the physical and emotional challenges of the sport, and moments of victory or defeat.

Are there famous examples of basketball sonnet poems?

While basketball sonnet poems are a niche genre, some poets and educators create and share such poems to celebrate the sport; however, there are no widely known famous basketball sonnet poems in classical literature.

Why use a sonnet form to write about basketball?

Using the sonnet form to write about basketball challenges poets to blend the structured, classical poetic form with the dynamic, fast-paced nature of the sport, creating a unique and artistic expression that highlights both the beauty of poetry and the excitement of basketball.

Additional Resources

1. *"Slam Dunk Sonnets: Poetry on the Court"*

This book blends the rhythmic elegance of sonnets with the high-energy world of basketball. Each poem captures moments of triumph, struggle, and camaraderie on the court, using the classic 14-line sonnet form. It's a unique fusion that appeals to both poetry lovers and basketball fans alike.

2. *"Hoops and Hearts: Sonnets Celebrating Basketball"*

An evocative collection of sonnets that explore the emotional and physical intensity of basketball. The poems delve into themes such as passion, perseverance, and teamwork, all framed within the structured beauty of sonnet poetry. Readers will find inspiration in the lyrical depiction of the game's spirit.

3. *"Courtside Sonnets: Ode to the Game"*

This anthology offers a series of sonnets dedicated to the game of basketball, from the crack of the ball on the hardwood to the final buzzer's sound. It highlights the artistry of movement and the poetry inherent in athletic competition. The book is perfect for those who appreciate both sport and classical poetry forms.

4. *"The Basketball Bard: Sonnets on the Hardwood"*

Featuring poems that treat basketball as a form of art, this book presents sonnets that reflect on the beauty and challenge of the game. The author uses vivid imagery and metaphor to bring the court to life in a poetic context. It's a celebration of athleticism through the lens of traditional poetry.

5. *"Net Swish Sonnets: Poetic Plays in Fourteen Lines"*

This collection focuses on the precise and disciplined nature of both basketball and sonnet writing. Each sonnet acts as a "play," telling a short story or moment that captures the essence of the sport. The book emphasizes the harmony between sport and literary structure.

6. *"Dribble and Rhyme: Basketball in Sonnet Form"*

A creative compilation where the rhythm of dribbling basketballs meets the meter of sonnet poetry. The poems explore personal journeys, game-day excitement, and the cultural impact of basketball. It's an engaging read for anyone interested in innovative poetic expression.

7. *"From Free Throw to Final Verse: Sonnets of the Game"*

This volume traces the emotional arc of a basketball game through a series of sonnets. Each poem captures a different phase, from the tension of free throws to the joy of victory and the lessons of

defeat. The work bridges the worlds of sport and poetry in a compelling narrative form.

8. *"Sonnets on the Hardwood: A Basketball Anthology"*

An anthology featuring multiple poets who share their love for basketball through sonnet form. The diverse voices and styles provide a multifaceted view of the sport's impact on life and identity. This book is both a tribute to basketball and an exploration of poetic tradition.

9. *"Court Poetics: Sonnets Inspired by Basketball"*

This book captures the dynamic energy and grace of basketball in sonnet style, using vivid language and classical structure. The poems celebrate individual skill and team spirit, highlighting the game's emotional and physical complexity. It's a unique addition to both sports literature and poetry collections.

Basketball Sonnet Poem

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Basketball Sonnet Poem: Unleash Your Inner Poet Through the Game

Do you love basketball and poetry, but struggle to express your passion in a creative, compelling way? Do you find yourself yearning to capture the electrifying energy of the game, the sweat, the strategy, the soaring shots, in a form beyond simple prose? Are you frustrated by a lack of resources specifically designed to guide you through the unique process of combining these two seemingly disparate art forms?

This ebook, "Basketball Sonnet Poem: A Guide to Poetic Expression Through the Sport," provides the precise instruction and inspiration you need to transform your love of basketball into breathtaking sonnets. We'll move beyond simple rhymes and delve into the craft of crafting powerful, moving verse inspired by the beautiful game.

Author: Coach Rhyme (Pen Name)

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Basketball Sonnet Poem: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: Understanding the Synergy of Basketball and Sonnets

The seemingly disparate worlds of basketball and sonnets share a surprising synergy. Both demand precision, strategy, and a deep understanding of form. Basketball requires carefully choreographed movements, strategic plays, and the precise execution of skills to achieve a winning outcome. Similarly, the sonnet, with its strict structure of 14 lines and specific rhyme schemes, necessitates precision and careful planning to achieve a powerful and cohesive poetic expression. This book aims to bridge this gap, guiding you through the process of transforming the dynamic energy and emotional intensity of basketball into eloquent and moving sonnets. We'll explore how the thrill of a game-winning shot, the agony of a missed free throw, or the camaraderie of teamwork can be translated into poetic language, capturing the essence of the sport in a uniquely artistic way.

Chapter 1: Mastering the Sonnet Form: Structure, Meter, and Rhyme Schemes

The sonnet, a 14-line poem, presents a structured framework for poetic expression. Understanding its nuances is crucial for crafting effective basketball sonnets. This chapter will delve into the two main sonnet forms: the Shakespearean (or English) sonnet and the Petrarchan (or Italian) sonnet. We'll explore their distinct rhyme schemes and meter (iambic pentameter).

Shakespearean Sonnet: This form consists of three quatrains (four-line stanzas) and a final couplet (two-line stanza), following an ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme. The quatrains often develop a narrative or theme, with the couplet providing a concluding thought or twist.

Petrarchan Sonnet: This form features an octave (eight-line stanza) and a sestet (six-line stanza), typically following an ABBAABBA CDECDE or ABBAABBA CDCDCD rhyme scheme. The octave often presents a problem or question, while the sestet offers a resolution or answer.

We will also examine the importance of iambic pentameter, a rhythmic pattern consisting of five pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables per line. Mastering these structural elements will provide the foundation for crafting well-structured and aesthetically pleasing basketball sonnets.

Chapter 2: Finding Inspiration in the Game: Observing, Analyzing, and Translating Basketball Moments into Poetic Language

The court is a fertile ground for poetic inspiration. This chapter focuses on transforming observations of basketball games into compelling poetic imagery. We will explore several methods:

Observational Poetics: Closely observing a game - the movements of players, the dynamics of teamwork, the tension of a crucial moment - provides raw material for poetic expression. Focus on specific details: the arc of a perfect three-pointer, the sweat dripping from a player's brow, the roar of the crowd.

Analytical Poetics: Going beyond simple observation, analyze the strategic elements of the game. Consider the play design, the players' roles, the ebb and flow of momentum. How do these strategic aspects translate into a poetic narrative?

Emotional Poetics: Basketball games are charged with emotion. Capture the excitement of a victory, the disappointment of a loss, the intensity of competition, and the joy of camaraderie. Use vivid language to convey these emotions effectively.

Chapter 3: Developing Your Poetic Voice: Exploring Imagery, Metaphor, and Personal Expression within the Sonnet Form

This chapter guides you in crafting a unique poetic voice suited to basketball sonnets. We'll explore:

Imagery: Employ vivid imagery to create a sensory experience for the reader. Describe the sights, sounds, smells, and even the feel of the game. Use strong verbs and evocative adjectives.

Metaphor and Simile: Use metaphors and similes to create comparisons and add depth to your descriptions. For instance, compare a player's agility to a graceful cat or the precision of a pass to a surgeon's steady hand.

Personal Expression: Infuse your sonnets with your unique perspective and emotions. What aspects of basketball resonate with you most deeply? Let your personality shine through in your writing.

Chapter 4: Crafting the Perfect Basketball Sonnet: A

Step-by-Step Guide to Composition, Revision, and Refinement

This chapter offers a practical, step-by-step guide to writing basketball sonnets:

1. Brainstorming: Generate ideas based on specific games, players, or moments that inspire you.
2. Outlining: Create a basic structure for your sonnet, outlining the main points you want to convey in each quatrain or stanza.
3. Drafting: Write a first draft, focusing on conveying your ideas and using vivid language.
4. Revision: Review your draft, focusing on clarity, flow, and adherence to the sonnet's form. Refine your word choices and imagery.
5. Polishing: Ensure your sonnet adheres to the chosen rhyme scheme and meter. Pay close attention to rhythm and sound.

Chapter 5: Sharing Your Work: Publishing and Promoting Your Basketball Sonnets

This chapter explores ways to share your creative work:

Online Platforms: Submit your sonnets to online literary magazines or create a blog to showcase your work.

Social Media: Share your sonnets on social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook.

Local Publications: Submit your work to local newspapers, magazines, or literary journals.

Conclusion: Continuing Your Poetic Journey

This book provides a foundation for exploring the intersection of basketball and poetry. Continue to practice your craft, experiment with different styles and techniques, and develop your unique poetic voice.

FAQs

1. What if I'm not a poet? This book is designed for beginners and experienced writers alike. The step-by-step approach makes it accessible to everyone.
2. What kind of basketball games should I watch for inspiration? Any game can provide inspiration. Focus on games that evoke strong emotions or have memorable moments.

3. How important is perfect rhyme and meter? While aiming for accuracy is important, don't be afraid to experiment. A slight deviation can sometimes enhance the poem's impact.
4. What if I struggle with finding the right words? Use a thesaurus and dictionary to find the perfect words to express your ideas.
5. Can I write about any aspect of basketball? Yes, write about whatever inspires you - players, teams, strategies, emotions, or any other aspect of the game.
6. How can I get feedback on my sonnets? Share your work with friends, family, or writing groups for constructive criticism.
7. Where can I find more resources on sonnets? There are many books and online resources available about sonnet writing and poetry in general.
8. Do I have to use iambic pentameter strictly? While traditional sonnets use iambic pentameter, you can experiment with variations.
9. How long should it take to write a basketball sonnet? The time will vary depending on your experience and the complexity of the poem.

Related Articles:

1. The Power of Imagery in Basketball Sonnets: Explores the use of vivid sensory descriptions to create engaging poems.
2. Mastering Iambic Pentameter in Basketball Poetry: A detailed guide to understanding and using iambic pentameter in sonnet writing.
3. Finding Your Poetic Voice in Basketball Sonnets: Focuses on developing a unique and compelling personal style.
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5. Rhyme Schemes and Structure in Basketball Sonnets: A comparison of Shakespearean and Petrarchan sonnet forms.
6. Overcoming Writer's Block When Writing Basketball Sonnets: Offers strategies for overcoming creative obstacles.
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8. Analyzing the Game: Translating Basketball Strategies into Poetry: Explores how strategic aspects of the game can inspire poetic themes.
9. The Emotional Landscape of Basketball: Expressing Feelings in Sonnets: Focuses on capturing the emotional intensity of basketball in poetic form.

basketball sonnet poem: Map to the Stars Adrian Matejka, 2017-03-28 A resonant new collection of poetry from Adrian Matejka, author of *The Big Smoke*, a finalist for The Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award *Map to the Stars*, the fourth poetry collection from National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize finalist Adrian Matejka, navigates the tensions between race, geography, and poverty in America during the Reagan Era. In the time of space shuttles and the Strategic Defense Initiative, outer space is the only place equality seems possible, even as the stars serve to both guide and obscure the earthly complexities of masculinity and migration. In Matejka's poems, hope is the link between the convoluted realities of being poor and the inspiring possibilities of transcendence and escape—whether it comes from *Star Trek*, the dream of being one of the first black astronauts, or Sun Ra's cosmic jazz.

basketball sonnet poem: The Crossover Kwame Alexander, 2014 New York Times bestseller • Newbery Medal Winner • Coretta Scott King Honor Award • 2015 YALSA 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults • 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers • Publishers Weekly Best Book • School Library Journal Best Book • Kirkus Best Book A beautifully measured novel of life and line.—The New York Times Book Review With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering, announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

basketball sonnet poem: The Big Smoke Adrian Matejka, 2013-05-28 A suite of poems examining the myth and history of the legendary prizefighter Jack Johnson—a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award—from the author, with Youssef Daoudi, of the graphic novel *Last on His Feet: Jack Johnson and the Battle of the Century* The legendary Jack Johnson (1878-1946) was a true American creation. The child of emancipated slaves, he overcame the violent segregationism of Jim Crow, challenging white boxers—and white America—to become the first African-American heavyweight world champion. *The Big Smoke*, Adrian Matejka's third work of poetry, follows the fighter's journey from poverty to the most coveted title in sports through the multi-layered voices of Johnson and the white women he brazenly loved. Matejka's book is part historic reclamation and part interrogation of Johnson's complicated legacy, one that often misremembers the magnetic man behind the myth.

basketball sonnet poem: Collected Poems of John Updike, 1953-1993 John Updike, 2012-04-25 "The idea of verse, of poetry, has always, during forty years spent working primarily in prose, stood at my elbow, as a standing invitation to the highest kind of verbal exercise—the most satisfying, the most archaic, the most elusive of critical control. In hotel rooms and airplanes, on beaches and Sundays, at junctures of personal happiness or its opposite, poetry has comforted me with its hope of permanence, its packaging of flux." Thus John Updike writes in introducing his *Collected Poems*. The earliest poems here date from 1953, when Updike was twenty-one, and the last were written after he turned sixty. Almost all of those published in his five previous collections are included, with some revisions. Arranged in chronological order, the poems constitute, as he says, "the thread backside of my life's fading tapestry." An ample set of notes at the back of the book discusses some of the hidden threads, and expatiates upon a number of fine points. Nature—tenderly intricate, ruthlessly impervious—is a constant and ambiguous presence in these poems, along with the social observation one would expect in a novelist. No occasion is too modest or too daily to excite metaphysical wonder, or to provoke a lyrical ingenuity of language. Yet even the wittiest of the poems are rooted to the ground of experience and fact. "Seven Odes to Seven Natural Processes" attempt to explicate the physical world with a directness seldom attempted in poetry. Several longer poems—"Leaving Church Early," "Midpoint"—use autobiography to proclaim the basic strangeness of existence.

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basketball sonnet poem: Postcolonial Love Poem Natalie Diaz, 2020-03-03 WINNER OF THE 2021 PULITZER PRIZE IN POETRY FINALIST FOR THE 2020 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR POETRY Natalie Diaz's highly anticipated follow-up to *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, winner of an American Book Award *Postcolonial Love Poem* is an anthem of desire against erasure. Natalie Diaz's brilliant second collection demands that every body carried in its pages—bodies of language, land, rivers, suffering brothers, enemies, and lovers—be touched and held as beloveds. Through these poems, the wounds inflicted by America onto an indigenous people are allowed to bloom pleasure and tenderness: "Let me call my anxiety, desire, then. / Let me call it, a garden." In this new lyrical landscape, the bodies of indigenous, Latinx, black, and brown women are simultaneously the body politic and the body ecstatic. In claiming this autonomy of desire, language is pushed to its dark edges, the astonishing dunefields and forests where pleasure and love are both grief and joy, violence and sensuality. Diaz defies the conditions from which she writes, a nation whose creation predicated the diminishment and ultimate erasure of bodies like hers and the people she loves: "I am doing my best to not become a museum / of myself. I am doing my best to breathe in and out. // I am begging: Let me be lonely but not invisible." *Postcolonial Love Poem* unravels notions of American goodness and creates something more powerful than hope—in it, a future is built, future being a matrix of the choices we make now, and in these poems, Diaz chooses love.

basketball sonnet poem: The Joy of Poetry Megan Willome, 2016-03-20 Part memoir, part humorous and poignant defense of poetry, this is a book that shows you what it is to live a life with poems at your side (and maybe in your *Topo Chico(r)*). Megan Willome's story is one you won't want to put down; meanwhile, her uncanny ability to reveal the why's and how's of poetry keeps calling-to even the biggest poetry doubter. If you already enjoy poetry, her story and her wisdom and her ways will invite you to go deeper, with novel ideas on how to engage with poems. A great title for retreats, poets & writers' groups, and book clubs. Or, if you're a teacher who has ever been asked, *Why poetry?*, this book is the ready answer you've been needing. Includes extras like how to keep a poetry journal (this is not just about putting poems in a journal!), how to be a poetry buddy, and how to take a poetry dare.

basketball sonnet poem: The Golden Shovel Anthology Terrance Hayes, 2019-06-07 "The cross-section of poets with varying poetics and styles gathered here is only one of the many admirable achievements of this volume." —Claudia Rankine in the New York Times *The Golden Shovel Anthology* celebrates the life and work of poet and civil rights icon Gwendolyn Brooks through a dynamic new poetic form, the Golden Shovel, created by National Book Award-winner Terrance Hayes. An array of writers—including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the T. S. Eliot Prize, and the National Book Award, as well as a couple of National Poets Laureate—have written poems for this exciting new anthology: Rita Dove, Billy Collins, Danez Smith, Nikki Giovanni, Sharon Olds, Tracy K. Smith, Mark Doty, Sharon Draper, Richard Powers, and Julia Glass are just a few of the contributing poets. This second edition includes Golden Shovel poems by two winners and six runners-up from an international student poetry competition judged by Nora Brooks Blakely, Gwendolyn Brooks's daughter. The poems by these eight talented high school students add to Ms.

Brooks's legacy and contribute to the depth and breadth of this anthology.

basketball sonnet poem: If God Invented Baseball E. Ethelbert Miller, 2018-02-13 Here are poems that celebrate and interpret the game by one of America's finest poets. They are for everyone who has experienced the magic released when three holy things come together: bat, ball and glove. Ethelbert Miller is one of the most significant and influential poets of our time. --Gwendolyn Brooks If God Invented Baseball is a complete game of baseball poems, a full nine innings pitched by a "master twirler," whose complete arsenal includes fastballs, curves and change-ups, and the occasional knuckler, to keep readers swinging for the fences, his full artistry on display. Ethelbert Miller's work captures the enjoyment of the game from childhood to old age. Baseball fans will place this book next to their scorecards, peanuts and beer. Poetry readers will equally be delighted. If God Invented Baseball is a book for the ballpark and the home. "Ethelbert's replay of baseball joys and sorrows is a must read. He brings us THE GAME with skill and grace. It is an inside the park home run" -- Clifford Alexander

basketball sonnet poem: The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo, 2018-03-06 Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpré Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. "Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice." —Justina Ireland, author of Dread Nation "An incredibly potent debut." —Jason Reynolds, author of the National Book Award Finalist Ghost "Acevedo has amplified the voices of girls en el barrio who are equal parts goddess, saint, warrior, and hero." —Ibi Zoboi, author of American Street This young adult novel, a selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List, is an excellent choice for accelerated tween readers in grades 6 to 8. Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's With the Fire on High and Clap When You Land!

basketball sonnet poem: Fast Break Mike Lupica, 2016-08-23 From the #1 bestselling author of Heat, Travel Team and Million-Dollar Throw comes a feel-good basketball tale reminiscent of The Blind Side. Forced to live on his own after his mom dies and her boyfriend abandons him, 12-year-old Jayson does whatever it takes to get by. He will do anything to avoid the foster care system. He manages to get away with his deception until the day he gets caught stealing a new pair of basketball sneakers. Game over. Within a day a social worker places him with a family from the other side of town, the Lawtons. New home, new school, new teammates. Jayson, at first, is combative, testing the Lawtons' patience at every turn. He wants out, yet the Lawtons refuse to take the bait. But not everyone in Jayson's new life is so ready to trust him. It's on Jayson to believe that he deserves a better life than the one he once had. The ultimate prize if he can? A trip to play in the state finals at Cameron Indoor Stadium—home to the Duke Blue Devils and launching pad to his dream of playing bigtime college ball. Getting there will be a journey that reaches far beyond the basketball court. Eager fans will find this a slam-dunk. A must-purchase.—Booklist Lupica's announcer-like delivery will have you breathless, on the edge of your seat, cheering.—Florida Times-Union

basketball sonnet poem: Keesha's House Helen Frost, 2016-09-06 An unforgettable narrative collage told in poems Keesha has found a safe place to live, and other kids gravitate to her house when they just can't make it on their own. They are Stephie - pregnant, trying to make the right

decisions for herself and those she cares about; Jason – Stephanie's boyfriend, torn between his responsibility to Stephanie and the baby and the promise of a college basketball career; Dontay – in foster care while his parents are in prison, feeling unwanted both inside and outside the system; Carmen – arrested on a DUI charge, waiting in a juvenile detention center for a judge to hear her case; Harris – disowned by his father after disclosing that he's gay, living in his car, and taking care of himself; Katie – angry at her mother's loyalty to an abusive stepfather, losing herself in long hours of work and school. Stretching the boundaries of traditional poetic forms – sestinas and sonnets – Helen Frost's extraordinary debut novel for young adults weaves together the stories of these seven teenagers as they courageously struggle to hold their lives together and overcome their difficulties. *Keesha's House* is a 2004 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

basketball sonnet poem: Hip-Hop Poetry and The Classics Alan Sitomer, Michael Cirelli, 2010-04-28 Hip-Hop's literary and artistic merits are evident when compared to classic poetry and it's easy to link the great poets of the past to the contemporary Hip Hop poets of today: compare Robert Frost to Public Enemy, Shakespeare to Eminem, and Shelley to the Notorious B.I.G. This interactive workbook-style format is fun for teachers and students, as it illuminates the art of the written word with in-depth analysis of poetic literary devices, writing activities, and other innovative methods.

basketball sonnet poem: The Write Thing: Kwame Alexander Engages Students in Writing Workshop Kwame Alexander, 2018-07-02 Imagine having a Newbery Medal-winning author in your classroom as an advisor and a friend, providing personal and practical advice on how to teach writing workshop in the modern-day classroom. With *The Write Thing*, you can do just that! Kwame Alexander is the New York Times-bestselling author of *The Crossover*. With more than 10 years of experience conducting writing workshops in schools, Alexander shows how to shake up the traditional writing workshop and make writing fun again! His magnetic personality, infectious enthusiasm, and love of teaching come through to inspire all students to write. *The Write Thing* teaches you how to move students step-by-step from ideas, to drafts, to finished works. Not only will you successfully motivate your students to write, you'll take that motivation one step further by providing guidance on how to create student-driven publications of their work. The confidence students will attain when they see their writing authentically published will be off the charts! The book has three parts: Writing, Publishing, and Presenting. The Writing section features Lessons in Action that teach students to produce writing that is worthy of being published. With a focus on poetry, Alexander's writing workshop uniquely meets the needs of reluctant writers. The Publishing section focuses on how to prepare and print digital and physical copies of students' work. The Presenting section provides suggestions to help students confidently present their poetry and other written pieces. Other exciting features include Kwame Time! videos for both teachers and students that bring Alexander into the classroom. Kwame's Quick Tips feature easy-to-implement ideas that have worked for Alexander. With an insightful foreword by author Kylene Beers, teacher success stories, and the most helpful appendix ever written, this essential resource will teach you how to tailor writing workshop to meet the particular needs of your students.

basketball sonnet poem: Zoom Rooms Mary Jo Salter, 2022-03-29 The timeless and timely intersect in poems about our unique historical moment, from the prizewinning poet. In *Zoom Rooms*, Mary Jo Salter considers the strangeness of our recent existence, together with the enduring constants in our lives. The title poem, a series of sonnet-sized Zoom meetings—a classroom, a memorial service, an encounter with a new baby in the family—finds humor and pathos in our age of social distancing and technology-induced proximity. Salter shows too how imagination collapses time and space: in “Island Diaries,” the pragmatist Robinson Crusoe meets on the beach a shipwrecked dreamer from an earlier century, Shakespeare’s Prospero. Poems that meditate on objects—a silk blouse, a hot water bottle—address the human need to heal and console. Our paradoxically solitary but communal experiences find expression, too, in poems about art, from a Walker Evans photograph to a gilded Giotto altarpiece. In these beautiful new poems, Salter directs us to moments we may otherwise miss, reminding us that alertness is itself a form of gratitude.

basketball sonnet poem: The Poem That Will Not End Joan Bransfield Graham, 2014-01-28 Ryan O'Brian is riding a wave of inspiration with no shoreline in sight--he can't STOP writing poetry. In the cafeteria with french fries. In the bathroom with toothpaste. Even on the soccer field with mud! Has he reached an artistic crescendo with a sonnet on the staircase and a villanelle on the shower curtain? What next? In this innovative, inspiring picture book, you'll find a laugh-out-loud story poem full of hilarious antics, and, if you look carefully, you'll discover Ryan's own poems within the inventive illustrations. As a bonus, Ryan's helpful guide to fifteen poetic forms and five voices invites you to challenge your own poetic imagination. Ideal for reading aloud or acting out, here's the perfect book to celebrate the joy of poetry and spark creative thinking. Join in the fun!

basketball sonnet poem: The Back Roads to March John Feinstein, 2021-03-16 #1 New York Times bestselling author John Feinstein returns to his first love--college basketball--with a fascinating and compelling journey through a landscape of unsung, unpublicized and often unknown heroes of Division-1 college hoops. John Feinstein pulls back the curtain on college basketball's lesser-known Cinderella stories--the smaller programs who no one expects to win, who have no chance of attracting the most coveted high school recruits. To tell this story, Feinstein follows a handful of players, coaches, and schools who dream, not of winning the NCAA tournament, but of making it past their first or second round games. Every once in a while, one of these coaches or players is plucked from obscurity to lead a major team or to play professionally, cementing their status in these fiercely passionate fan bases as a legend. These are the gifted players who aren't handled with kid gloves--they're hardworking, gritty teammates who practice and party with everyone else. With his trademark humor and invaluable connections, John Feinstein reveals the big time programs you've never heard of, the bracket busters you didn't expect to cheer for, and the coaches who inspire them to take their teams to the next level.

basketball sonnet poem: *King of Shadows* Susan Cooper, 2012-03-06 Only in the world of the theater can Nat Field find an escape from the tragedies that have shadowed his young life. So he is thrilled when he is chosen to join an American drama troupe traveling to London to perform A Midsummer Night's Dream in a new replica of the famous Globe theater. Shortly after arriving in England, Nat goes to bed ill and awakens transported back in time four hundred years -- to another London, and another production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Amid the bustle and excitement of an Elizabethan theatrical production, Nat finds the warm, nurturing father figure missing from his life -- in none other than William Shakespeare himself. Does Nat have to remain trapped in the past forever, or give up the friendship he's so longed for in his own time?

basketball sonnet poem: *The Cambridge Companion to the Sonnet* A. D. Cousins, Peter Howarth, 2011-02-03 Beginning with the early masters of the sonnet form, Dante and Petrarch, the Companion examines the reinvention of the sonnet across times and cultures, from Europe to America. In doing so, it considers sonnets as diverse as those by William Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, George Herbert and e. e. cummings. The chapters explore how we think of the sonnet as a 'lyric' and what is involved in actually trying to write one. The book includes a lively discussion between three distinguished contemporary poets - Paul Muldoon, Jeff Hilson and Meg Tyler - on the experience of writing a sonnet, and a chapter which traces the sonnet's diffusion across manuscript, print, screen and the internet. A fresh and authoritative overview of this major poetic form, the Companion expertly guides the reader through the sonnet's history and development into the global multimedia phenomenon it is today.

basketball sonnet poem: When My Brother Was an Aztec Natalie Diaz, 2012-12-04 I write hungry sentences, Natalie Diaz once explained in an interview, because they want more and more lyricism and imagery to satisfy them. This debut collection is a fast-paced tour of Mojave life and family narrative: A sister fights for or against a brother on meth, and everyone from Antigone, Houdini, Huitzilopochtli, and Jesus is invoked and invited to hash it out. These darkly humorous poems illuminate far corners of the heart, revealing teeth, tails, and more than a few dreams. I watched a lion eat a man like a piece of fruit, peel tendons from fascia like pith from rind, then lick the sweet meat from its hard core of bones. The man had earned this feast and his own deliciousness

by ringing a stick against the lion's cage, calling out Here, Kitty Kitty, Meow! With one swipe of a paw much like a catcher's mitt with fangs, the lion pulled the man into the cage, rattling his skeleton against the metal bars. The lion didn't want to do it— He didn't want to eat the man like a piece of fruit and he told the crowd this: I only wanted some goddamn sleep . . . Natalie Diaz was born and raised on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Needles, California. After playing professional basketball for four years in Europe and Asia, Diaz returned to the states to complete her MFA at Old Dominion University. She lives in Surprise, Arizona, and is working to preserve the Mojave language.

basketball sonnet poem: Casey at the Bat Ernest Lawrence Thayer, 1912 A narrative poem about a celebrated baseball player who strikes out at the crucial moment of a game.

basketball sonnet poem: Popular China Perry Link, Richard P. Madsen, Paul G. Pickowicz, 2001-12-11 Using ingenious research methods, the contributors to this book explore the search for meaning among ordinary people in China today. The subjects of these vivid essays span the social spectrum from hip young entrepreneurs to sweatshop workers and homeless beggars. The issues are equally diverse, ranging from domestic violence to homosexuality to political corruption. The culture of popular China emerges as a mixture of exhilarating new aspirations—as seen in the basketball fans who dream of flying like Michael Jordan or Kobe Bryant; rueful cynicism—as bitingly conveyed in the many satirical jingles that circulate by word of mouth; and painful ambivalence. The people depicted here have built their popular culture out of ideas and symbolic practices drawn from old cultural traditions, from concepts about modernity debated during the early twentieth-century republican era, from the legacies of Maoist socialism, and from contemporary global culture. Throughout, the book shows how economic and social changes caused by globalization, in combination with the continuing Party dictatorship, have presented ordinary Chinese with a new array of moral and cultural challenges that they have met in ways that have changed the face of China. Contributions by: Julia F. Andrews, Anita Chan, Deborah S. Davis, Leila Fernández-Stembridge, Robert Geyer, Amy Hanser, Richard Levy, Perry Link, Richard P. Madsen, Andrew Morris, Paul G. Pickowicz, Kuiyi Shen, Liping Wang, Li Zhang, Yuezhi Zhao, and Kate Zhou.

basketball sonnet poem: Don't Read Poetry Stephanie Burt, 2019-05-21 An award-winning poet offers a brilliant introduction to the joys--and challenges--of the genre In *Don't Read Poetry*, award-winning poet and literary critic Stephanie Burt offers an accessible introduction to the seemingly daunting task of reading, understanding, and appreciating poetry. Burt dispels preconceptions about poetry and explains how poems speak to one another--and how they can speak to our lives. She shows readers how to find more poems once they have some poems they like, and how to connect the poetry of the past to the poetry of the present. Burt moves seamlessly from Shakespeare and other classics to the contemporary poetry circulated on Tumblr and Twitter. She challenges the assumptions that many of us make about poetry, whether we think we like it or think we don't, in order to help us cherish--and distinguish among--individual poems. A masterful guide to a sometimes confounding genre, *Don't Read Poetry* will instruct and delight ingénues and cognoscenti alike.

basketball sonnet poem: Felon: Poems Reginald Dwayne Betts, 2019-10-15 Winner of the NAACP Image Award and finalist for the 2019 Los Angeles Times Book Prize “A powerful work of lyric art.” —New York Times Book Review, Editors’ Choice In fierce, agile poems, *Felon* tells the story of the effects of incarceration—canvassing a wide range of emotions and experiences through homelessness, underemployment, love, drug abuse, domestic violence, fatherhood, and grace—and, in doing so, creates a travelogue for an imagined life. Reginald Dwayne Betts confronts the funk of post-incarceration existence in traditional and newfound forms, from revolutionary found poems created by redacting court documents to the astonishing crown of sonnets that serves as the volume’s radiant conclusion.

basketball sonnet poem: Drinking with Men Rosie Schaap, 2013-01-24 NPR “Best Books of 2013” BookPage Best Books of 2013 Library Journal Best Books of 2013: Memoir Flavorwire 10 Best

Nonfiction Books of 2013 A vivid, funny, and poignant memoir that celebrates the distinct lure of the camaraderie and community one finds drinking in bars. Rosie Schaap has always loved bars: the wood and brass and jukeboxes, the knowing bartenders, and especially the sometimes surprising but always comforting company of regulars. Starting with her misspent youth in the bar car of a regional railroad, where at fifteen she told commuters' fortunes in exchange for beer, and continuing today as she slings cocktails at a neighborhood joint in Brooklyn, Schaap has learned her way around both sides of a bar and come to realize how powerful the fellowship among regular patrons can be. In *Drinking with Men*, Schaap shares her unending quest for the perfect local haunt, which takes her from a dive outside Los Angeles to a Dublin pub full of poets, and from small-town New England taverns to a character-filled bar in Manhattan's TriBeCa. Drinking alongside artists and expats, ironworkers and soccer fanatics, she finds these places offer a safe haven, a respite, and a place to feel most like herself. In rich, colorful prose, Schaap brings to life these seedy, warm, and wonderful rooms. *Drinking with Men* is a love letter to the bars, pubs, and taverns that have been Schaap's refuge, and a celebration of the uniquely civilizing source of community that is bar culture at its best.

basketball sonnet poem: Audacity Melanie Crowder, 2015 A historical fiction novel in verse detailing the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women's labor rights in the early 20th century in New York--

basketball sonnet poem: Sport Poems Mary Colson, 2014-03-13 This book invites the reader to jump into a selection of poems about sports written by people from different places and times. It gives the reader the keys needed to unlock poems. It equips the reader to explore the meanings that a poem has, and it explains the techniques poets use to create their effects.

basketball sonnet poem: Coaching From the HEART Steve Biddison, 2012-02-29 Coach Steve Biddison has a history of turning basketball programs around. Four times in his career he has taken over teams who had losing records and turned them into a playoff team. *Coaching From the HEART* is a detailed account how he works to change the mindset of players who are used to losing and turn them into winners. Using the acronym of HEART, Coach Biddison explains how Hard Work, Enthusiasm, Attitudes of Confidence, Relationships, and Talent gells a program together to form the Heart of a Champion. Each chapter is dedicated to one of those five core values that make up a successful basketball program. Along the way, Coach Biddison gives personal accounts of how he worked to instill these values into his team. If you are a basketball coach, or any other type of coach, this is a must book as it will get you thinking about how to really reach inside the hearts and minds of your players and give them the best opportunity to succeed.

basketball sonnet poem: For the Scribe David Wojahn, 2017-04-03 *For the Scribe*, the ninth collection by award-winning poet David Wojahn, continues his explorations of the interstices between the public and the private, the historical and the personal. Poems of recollection and elegy commingle and conjoin with poems which address larger matters of historical and ecological import. The subjects of extinction and apocalypse figure prominently and obsessively in these pages, both in short lyrics and in several lengthy sequences. The poems also evidence the mastery of technique for which Wojahn is renowned, whether he is writing in fixed forms or in free verse. *For the Scribe* is the most ambitious and searching collection thus far from a poet who has been a named finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry, winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize from the Academy of American Poets, the O. B. Hardison Award from the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the William Carlos Williams Book Award.

basketball sonnet poem: The House of Life Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1894

basketball sonnet poem: Haiku Notebook W. F. Owen, 2007-01-01 This notebook is a bridge between technical manuals on how to write haiku poetry and collections of haiku. There are two hundred haiku and senryu poems from w. f. owen's last several years of writing. As a professor of interpersonal communication and an award-winning haiku writer, the author presents commentaries, perceptions, brief stories and haibun that are intended to help authors new to this art compose their poems. Included are first-place poems from the Harold Henderson Haiku Contest

(2004) and the Gerald Brady Senryu Contests (2002, 2003) sponsored by the Haiku Society of America.

basketball sonnet poem: The Hard Way on Purpose David Giffels, 2014-03-18

Award-winning author and journalist David Giffels explores the meaning of identity and place, hamburgers, hard work, and basketball in this collection of wry, irreverent essays reflecting on the many aspects of Midwestern culture and life from an insider's perspective. In *The Hard Way on Purpose*, David Giffels takes us on an insider's journey through the wreckage and resurgence of America's Rust Belt. A native who never knew the good times, yet never abandoned his hometown of Akron, Giffels plumbs the touchstones and idiosyncrasies of a region where industry has fallen, bowling is a legitimate profession, bizarre weather is the norm, rock 'n' roll is desperate, thrift store culture thrives, and sports is heartbreak. Intelligent, humorous, and warm, Giffels's linked essays are about coming of age in the Midwest and about the stubborn, optimistic, and resourceful people who prevail there.

basketball sonnet poem: All the Broken Pieces Ann E. Burg, 2013-09-24 An award-winning debut novel from a stellar new voice in middle grade fiction. Matt Pin would like to forget: war torn Vietnam, bombs that fell like dead crows, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.

basketball sonnet poem: The Crown Ain't Worth Much Hanif Abdurraqib, 2020-05-15 2017 Eric Hoffer Book Award - Poetry Honorable Mention 2017 Eric Hoffer Book Award - Grand Prize Short List 2017 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award Nominee *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, Hanif Abdurraqib's first full-length collection, is a sharp and vulnerable portrayal of city life in the United States. A regular columnist for MTV.com, Abdurraqib brings his interest in pop culture to these poems, analyzing race, gender, family, and the love that finally holds us together even as it threatens to break us. Terrance Hayes writes that Abdurraqib bridges the bravado and bling of praise with the blood and tears of elegy. The poems in this collection are challenging and accessible at once, as they seek to render real human voices in moments of tragedy and celebration.

basketball sonnet poem: In a Fine Frenzy David Starkey, Paul J. Willis, 2005 Showcasing poems by more than ninety contemporary American poets, *In a Fine Frenzy* reveals what Shakespeare's poetic children have made of their inheritance. Particularly interested in Viola, Miranda, Prospero, Desdemona, Iago, Lear, Cordelia, Hamlet, Horatio, and Ophelia, the poets respond to the sonnets, the comedies, the tragedies, the romances, and, to a lesser degree, Shakespeare the man. In so doing they reveal the aspects of his work most currently captivating to modern writers. Those who cherish Shakespeare's mercurial wit will delight in the rapid shifts, from grief to hilarity, so characteristic of the bard himself. Comic poems about tragedies follow decidedly somber poems about comedies. Single poems contain multiple emotional twists and turns. Some pay homage; most interact directly with the original Shakespearean text. Collectively, they corroborate Ben Jonson's assertion that Shakespeare is not of an age, but for all time.

basketball sonnet poem: Trances of the Blast Mary Ruefle, 2014-09-02 Now in paperback, the most recent collection from celebrated poet Mary Ruefle—moving, authoritative, generous.

basketball sonnet poem: American Sonnets Wanda Coleman, 1994

basketball sonnet poem: As the Poet Said-- Tony Curtis, 1997

basketball sonnet poem: A Fortune for Your Disaster Hanif Abdurraqib, 2019-09-03 "When an author's unmitigated brilliance shows up on every page, it's tempting to skip a description and just say, Read this! Such is the case with this breathlessly powerful, deceptively breezy book of poetry." —Booklist, Starred Review In his much-anticipated follow-up to *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, poet, essayist, biographer, and music critic Hanif Abdurraqib has written a book of poems about how one rebuilds oneself after a heartbreak, the kind that renders them a different version of themselves than the one they knew. It's a book about a mother's death, and admitting that Michael

Jordan pushed off, about forgiveness, and how none of the author's black friends wanted to listen to Don't Stop Believin'. It's about wrestling with histories, personal and shared. Abdurraqib uses touchstones from the world outside—from Marvin Gaye to Nikola Tesla to his neighbor's dogs—to create a mirror, inside of which every angle presents a new possibility.

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