Kicker!

Original Poetry by the Poet-Athletes of America SCORERS

2017

Poetry Moves

Let's Kick It!

100!

WOW! New Style

That's

Shine Bright

Poetry

My Mind is a Diamond

Confidence

On and Off the Field

Fútbol 4Ever

KICK

Fúcar Fresco

OK!!!
We hid a lot of soccer balls in this year’s Kicker!

**How many can you find?**

¡Escondimos muchos balones de fútbol en el Kicker de este año!

**¿Cuántos puedes encontrar?**

Write how many you found here:

Escribe aquí cuántos encontraste:

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**BONUS**

How many words can you think of that rhyme with “ball?” We did one for you.

¿Cuántas palabras puedes pensar de esa rima con “ball”? Hicimos una para ti.

wall

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[Image: A page from a document containing a list of contents and a puzzle about finding soccer balls.]
I once asked legendary British soccer commentator Martin Tyler what separated the truly great soccer players—the Lionel Messis or Carli Lloyds—from the merely good ones. He said that soccer is ultimately about decisions. “When they receive the ball, every player must decide whether to dribble, pass, or shoot;” he said, “the best players make better decisions more of the time than those around them.” Soccer is a game of thinking.

Poetry, too, is all about ideas, decisions, and the mind. In the words of the American poet Allen Ginsberg, “It’s that time of night, lying in bed, thinking what you really think.” I think the greatness of America SCORES and all of you poet-athletes is that you understand the connection between poetry and soccer better than anyone. You have all dedicated your lives to improving your creativity on both the page and the field, seeing beautiful poetry come alive in both places – with appreciation for the works of Emily Dickinson and Arlo White, Christian Pulisic and Mallory Pugh in equal measure. Great poets, all.

To more, and wishing you all Courage.

Roger Bennett
@rogbennett
MeninBlazers.com
America SCORES inspires urban youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world.

A national nonprofit, America SCORES engages youth with innovative after-school and summer programming that builds teams through a unique combination of soccer, poetry, and service learning.

Our holistic, team-based approach works: America SCORES poet-athletes, 85% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch, improve academically, increase physical fitness, and have a greater sense of confidence and belonging to make a difference in the world.

75% of participants improved their grammar and writing mechanics.

13 cities
194 schools
14,718 poet athletes
70,000

411 TEAMS

627 COACHES

70,000 ORIGINAL STUDENT POEMS WRITTEN EACH YEAR
2017 Spotlight!

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE POET-ATHLETES, COACHES, AND TEAMS WHO MAKE AMERICA SCORES GREAT
Coach Taharri Teaches Life Lessons

Words cannot completely illustrate Taharri Turner’s energy, enthusiasm, and passion for introducing youth to programs and activities that can enrich their lives.

TAHARRI HAS BEEN A COACH IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE FIELD WITH THE AMERICA SCORES BOSTON PROGRAM AT LILLA G. FREDERICK PILOT MIDDLE SCHOOL IN DORCHESTER FOR OVER A DECADE.

In addition, he has taught health and physical education and coached the boys basketball and girls soccer teams at Frederick for the past 13 years.

Taharri embodies America SCORES Boston’s mission to empower youth to create positive change in their lives, in their communities, and around the world. Sportsmanship, leadership, and commitment are the pillars that the program is built around, and he ensures Frederick students live up to these ideals. Taharri is committed to building healthy minds and bodies through physical activity and sport. “Commitment, hard work, and dedication,” he says, “are the keys to success in anything you do.” (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...)
Taharri recognizes his position as a leader and mentor. He teaches students to give their maximum effort, coaches without prejudice on the field, and leads thoughtful poetry and service-learning workshops. In a 7v7 league, it is difficult to maintain a 15-person roster while giving everyone equal playing time; yet somehow, Taharri manages this without difficulty.

In the fall of 2011, Frederick won our annual VOICES competition and was awarded with a 3-day songwriting residency with critically-acclaimed hip-hop artist Psalm One. The song they produced, “Ride for My Team,” stands as one of the program’s best songs and is featured on the ASCAP Songwriter Residency @ America SCORES, Volume 5 album.

For his efforts, Taharri was recognized as a 2016 Positive Coaching Alliance’s Double-Goal Coach® Award winner for the New England chapter. He embodies the perfect balance of desire for competition while also teaching life lessons through sports.

Chris Lantigua started in America SCORES New York as an 8-year-old at PS 153 in Harlem. After three years in the program, he stayed in touch with SCORES as a volunteer at game days and summer camps. Now 24, Chris is in his final year as a sociology major at Lehman College in the Bronx. When he’s not studying, he works as an alumni coordinator and coach, continuing to give back to the program that had such an impact on him as a young kid.

Chris first got involved with SCORES because his sister’s teacher was a coach, and she felt it would keep him out of trouble. He was held back a grade and needed something to help him connect with his classmates. Though the program was scary at first, his sister was there to help, making it a family affair. Chris loved to draw and kept being asked to draw posters for the team, endearing himself to his new teammates. Eventually, SCORES helped Chris find his place at PS 153 and helped him develop as a leader.

“SCORES taught me all about working with others as a team,” Chris said. “It also helped me open up more and be more social with those around me. I still have friends from my 3rd to 5th grade SCORES team.”

Among many fond memories of SCORES, Chris especially loves the Poetry SLAM! He remembers the scale of the event and how excited it made him and his teammates. They all worked hard to prepare for the event and enjoyed their performances. Chris’s work with the team was so well-received that he received The Commitment Badge patch at the SLAM! one year.

Today, the longest-lasting impact of the program on Chris has been service learning. In the time since, he has done a lot of volunteer work, most notably with the Boys and Girls Club and Let’s Get Ready, a program that preps high school juniors for the SATs. After graduating from Lehman, he wants to get into education. Chris’s dream is to become an elementary school teacher at a public school in NYC.
The SCORES program at Stride Avenue Community School in Burnaby, Canada, is filled with many different students, all learning to work together to help their school and the community around them. The CORE grade 3-5 program is in its fourth year, while the SCORES In Action program for grade 6 & 7 students, many of whom are previous CORE students, is in its first year.

The CORE coaches aim to build positivity in the group where all levels and capabilities can come together to build a team worth cheering for. “I like that we are kind to each other and cheer everybody on!” said Jasdi, a 4th grade student in the CORE program. Maya, also in 4th grade, added, “everybody helps everybody and we listen to each other.”

When asked why he likes the Canada SCORES program, 4th grader Ethan responded, “I get to hang out with friends every day after school, and it helps me get better at writing.” Reben, who started in 2nd grade and has participated in almost every year that Canada SCORES has been at Stride Ave., simply said, “Canada SCORES is like my family.”

The SCORES In Action students come from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. They meet on a weekly basis to learn more about their community and ways to improve it, demonstrating inclusion, cooperation, and humor as they work together. Even though they come to the team with different perspectives, they all have the same goal: to do something good for others.

Both the CORE and SCORES In Action teams display key SCORES values. The students are willing to push themselves and dedicate their efforts to their projects, activities, and tasks. Over the course of the year, they have shown they work well together and really care for each other. Their friendships extend beyond their SCORES sessions and into their school days, and they are growing as inclusive, considerate, friendly, and welcoming individuals. Their self-confidence and willingness to overcome adversity will push them towards further success.

Canada SCORES salutes the students from Stride Ave. Community School and wishes them all the best as they continue their work toward individual and community improvement!
**DC SCORES**

Bancroft Elementary School’s project, Empowering Immigrants, was to learn about and support the many immigrants in their community. They made fliers to share about resources available and handed them out to families in the neighborhood at pick-up time. They also displayed posters educating people about immigration and immigrants’ rights.

**America SCORES Bay Area**

The America SCORES girls team at Cleveland Elementary School wanted more sports available and accessible for girls. Over 100 people signed their petition to advocate for more athletic opportunities for girls in their neighborhood.

**America SCORES Boston**

The Charles Sumner Elementary School team asked their principal for permission to throw their very first Hawaiian-themed spring dance. The team charged an entrance fee, sold healthy snacks, had their very own DJ, and danced the afternoon away. All their proceeds were donated to the Greater Boston Food Bank to fight hunger in their community.

**America SCORES Denver**

Munroe Elementary School teamed up with a local charity group Project Westwood to help clean up their neighborhood. The boys’ team worked to improve community gardens and repaint the school blacktop.

**America SCORES Milwaukee**

While learning about homelessness, the Clarke Street School girls team discovered that children living in the shelter may celebrate birthdays during their stay. To make sure that homeless kids could still have parties for their birthdays, the Clarke Street team organized a birthday party supply drive at their school. All supplies were placed in party-themed boxes and delivered to Joy House.
Drawing

I love to draw when I’m thinking,
I go to another place in my mind.
Where I see wolves, snakes and sharks.
It’s a place where there’s a lot of pictures to find.
In my brain there is a lot of imagination
Pictures are floating like clouds in my head
Telling me the story in my brain
Like pictures in the books I have read.
In Art class we do a lot of things
We sketch, paint, and work with clay
We share our ideas and supplies
It’s my favorite time of the day.

Josion C., 10
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

OUR IMAGINATIONS ARE POWERFUL THINGS.
THEY LET US ENVISION A HAPPIER FUTURE, A
MAKE-BELIEVE KINGDOM, AND ALL SORTS OF
OTHER WILD AND WONDERFUL THINGS.
Free World

I would see homeless people with homes
They would have good food to eat
I could smell good healthy foods
For everyone in the neighborhood
I feel happy that everyone has healthy foods and homes
I hear people cheering down the street
Being thankful for all the things they have
It tastes like victory
Everywhere in the world has freedom
Anyone can make a change

Jonailie M., 10
AMERICA SCORES NEW ENGLAND

One Little Rabbit

One little rabbit walking down the road
Passing by he saw a toad
When he saw the toad he thought it was dead
But it was sleeping in its bed
When the little rabbit left with a hop
He saw the little tree by the road drop
It hit the ground with a loud pop
The rabbit took off with a hip and a hop

Ziar S., 10
AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

You Are

You are a shiny, silver flute,
Playing gently, but beautifully in
The sunset.
You are a wild, deep purple shooting star,
Dancing your way through;
The dazzling galaxy.
You are a graceful, blue tulip.
Swaying in the beat of the flawless wind.
You are the person you want to be.
You are life.

Ella V., 9
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

The Destroyer

The Destroyer has rumbling lava and
lightning bolts for light
It has killer rabbits that kill you at night
The dark ashes and the dark clouds
smell like dry grass at the park.
The temperature in the destroyer world is
freezing like below zero
Deep, deep darkness surrounds my world
And the sky is as black as space
Creepy bats
That are scared of cats
It tastes like slimy snails
But WATCH OUT! You might step on nails!

Dustin C., 9
AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

Noodles

Nicholas nibbling on noodles
Costing a nickel
He needs nine hundred noodles
But he needs more nickels
Nicholas asked his nice neighbor
For nickels, but the nice neighbor
Said NO!
So Nicholas never nibbled noodles
Again!

Nicholas G., 11
AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

Today

Today, I am Weird
I feel dull
I pretend to be fluffy
Yesterday, my name was Hungry
I ate a burger
I ate a lion

Elias V., 9
AMERICA SCORES LA
**Firefox**

Firefox was a magical creature who always loved to play.

So bright and cheerful,
Each and every day
Then one day,
Along came a new friend.

She thought the fun would never end,
But she saw things weren’t always as they seemed.

She saw strange and wild things.
So she went to the only other person that was sane.

Zhaniah lived down on huckleberry lane,
She said “Dear, Mother, what do you think is wrong,"
I think we’ve been here far too long.

So they packed their bags and went on their way,
Then along came a cute kitty stray.

“Aww, Mom, can we keep him, he’s so fun.
“No! We have to leave, c’mon, let’s run.
They ran away faster than an ape,
The stray started to change shape.

The cat went from pink to white to pink and white,
He became a shift changing creature of the night.

Once the transformation was complete,
The sun saw a creature so strange and obsolete.

But it was a shell, a cover too,
Guess who popped out, guess who.

It was Firefox, the fox from Nimbalo,
She just played a trick on you!

Happy trails and happy fun,
That’s the end of Chapter 1.

Can’t wait to see you soon good friend,
I hope your fun will never end.

Madison R., 11

**Unicorn Island**

Unicorn Island is where all my dreams and desires meet in one place.

Trees, trees give me shade on hot and beautiful days.
Faries are so sweet,
With their tiny voices and glittery wings.
Unicorns are so great!
Running around, never wanting it to end.
Rainbows, rainbows are red, orange, yellow, green, violet and blue.
They present a new adventure for you.
Famous singers give me warm hugs,
Leaving their beautiful voices flowing through my head.
Candy, candy tastes so good!
If you are lucky I will share it with you!

Chelsea L., 11

**SUPER SIMILES**

Find a doodle on this page that you like.
Can you draw it below?

Encuentra un garabato en esta página que te gusta.
¿Puedes dibujarla abajo?

Now, think of some similes about the doodle you picked. Remember, a simile uses “like” or “as” to compare one thing with another. The first one has been done for you!

Ahora, piensa en algunos símiles sobre el garabato que escogiste. Acuérdate, un símil se usa “como” para comparar una cosa con otra. Se ha hecho el primer para ti.

EXAMPLE:

This doodle is ________ like a(n) ________.

This doodle is __________ like a __________.

OK, LET’S GET STARTED!

This doodle is as ________ as a(n) ________.

This doodle is as ________ as a(n) ________.

Este garabato es ________ como un ________.

This doodle is __________ like a __________.

Chelsea L., 11

AMERICA SCORES NEW ENGLAND

Madison R., 11

AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

OK, LET’S GET STARTED!
Poetry helps us express the way we feel: remembering happy times, working through sadness, and even letting out our frustration.

My Star

My mom is crying like a thunder storm
Because her mom is dead like a rose petal in the winter
It makes me feel so blue like a hard raining day
And I help her to clean the dust,
like the dust from my room
And I help her to do her things,
like making her smile like a clown does at a circus

Efrain M., 9
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

We Have Our Moments

We laugh and play and have fun everyday
We joke and have luck but sometimes we don’t get along
You know I love you I will never let you go
I get mad at you but I can’t hold my anger for too long
Because whenever I do I feel like I did you wrong
Because remember this, if we are a million miles away
I still feel like I’m with you
Everyday a piece of you stays in my heart,
Never forget me, I’m begging you please
If you ever need me I will be there
In a breeze

Maria R., 11
AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK

Poetry helps us express the way we feel: remembering happy times, working through sadness, and even letting out our frustration.
The Scariest Day Of My Life

The scariest day of my life happened
When there was a 5.0 earthquake
I had to crawl under the table
Buildings fell and some people died
It was both scary and sad
It felt like the end of the world

Sebastian O., 8
AMERICA SCORES LA

The Pain I Feel Inside

In the day I sigh
In the night I start to cry
Just thinking about you turns my insides black and blue
As I talk to my mom about my father, it seemed like her whole day began to get darker
And then I would think…
Wait what did he do for me?
The only thing he did was see me weep
He was not there since birth
He said I was a mistake
And now you expect me to forgive you put my heart at stake
Wait no not stake, you left me for my heart to break
Every time I look at myself I see you then I think what did I do to make you hate me?
Is it because I told my mom your girlfriend hit me
Those are all the questions I got to say…
All I know is that you created a beautiful blessing at the end of the day.

Maleeya, 10
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE
Playing Football With Heather O’Reilly

Long-time America SCORES champion Heather O’Reilly is a U.S. Women’s National Team legend. Over a 14-year career, she won three Olympic Gold medals and the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup while scoring 47 goals as both a forward and midfielder. After retiring from the team last fall, Heather decided to cross the ocean to play for Arsenal Ladies F.C. Ahead of her debut season, Heather chatted with us about her new life in England.

WHAT’S IT LIKE TO PLAY SOCCER IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY?
It’s cool! The other players speak English so it is easy. But there are things that are different, like they call it football and I call it soccer. But it is a lot of fun because even though we grew up in different places, we are connected by the beautiful game of soccer and we “talk” with our feet!

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE TO WIN THE WORLD CUP?
Winning was very special because that was a lifetime of work, individually and as a team, that went into it. To see that pay off on the grandest stage was very memorable. Also, all 23 team members were part of the journey and that was really cool.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF WORKING WITH AMERICA SCORES?
My favorite memory is hearing David Joseph, who worked for many years at America SCORES LA, speak about the alumni of the program. He was so proud of them! They grew up to be strong and confident and healthy because of America SCORES and I loved seeing his face light up when he talked about them.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG GIRLS WHO PLAY SPORTS?
Dream big dreams. Outwork everyone else. And be yourself. If you can do those three things well, you will achieve a lot in sports and in life!

Photograph by Patricia Giobetti

Follow @HEATHEROREILLY for more updates!
Game Time!

RHYME SAYERS

Tongue Twister
Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the words below to reveal a tongue twister. Then, try to say it as fast as you can!

HINT: Each word starts with the letter “S”

T-XYIXSSI
LCISK
ERCCSO
SRTAS
PTISRN
ELDSI
CROES

ACROSTIC ACROBATICS

Awesome
ABCs

Can you think of a time this year in America SCORES that made you really happy? Start an alphabet poem about it. Remember: the first word in each line of an alphabet poem begins with the next letter of the alphabet. The first line begins with A, the second with B, and so on.

¿Puedes identificar alguna vez este año cuando America SCORES te hizo muy feliz? Empieza con un poema alfabeto sobre este momento. Acuérdate: la primera palabra de cada línea de un poema alfabeto comienza con la próxima letra del alfabeto. La primera línea comienza con A, la segunda con B, et cétera. ¡Hicimos un plan para ti!

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
Soccer

When I'm on the field I'm on fire,
If my team wins or loses, don't matter at least I played with my desire.
Sometimes when I fall,
It's while I'm kicking the soccer ball.
If you wanna see me rollin,
Put me in goalie cause you know I can catch that soccer ball.
Our team has an incredible defence,
Yours doesn't, no offence.
My team can run, jump, kick and score,
And when we'll score you'll hear us roar.
It's absolutely fun,
When I play in the sun, while I run, while kicking the soccer ball,
Use teamwork when there is any situation,
Then they'll be no frustration and no hesitation.
Rain or sun I'll still play on.

Author: Arshjyot D., 10
Canada SCORES Vancouver

I Love Soccer

I love to play soccer
No one will ever be a mocker
To this amazing sport
I hope the games will never be short.
When you score a goal
It feels like you own gold
And when you win the game
And everyone hollers your name
It feels like you accomplish your mission
And you'll really be wishin
That the next game comes soon
Even if you have to go to the moon.

Author: Cammyla V., 9
America SCORES New York

SMILES AND SOCCER,
SMILES AND POETRY!!!
Writing What’s Personal with Charity Blackwell

Charity is a former Coach Across America coach for DC SCORES who has hosted multiple SCORES events, including the 2015 and 2016 National Poetry SLAMs. She is active in the D.C. spoken-word scene and has performed several times at local venue Busboys and Poets. Charity recently completed a Master’s degree in communications with a concentration in leadership at Trinity University, where she also obtained her undergraduate degree and played soccer for four years.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO WRITE POETRY?
My everyday life experiences inspire me to write. I used to write nonstop when I was younger, but I drifted away from it until 2015, when I lost the most influential person in my life: my mother. I found myself desperately seeking an outlet during this time. An old college teacher reached out to me and encouraged me to spill my feelings into my poetry. She reminded me of the power of words. So I began to write again, and I have not stopped since.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF POETRY?
My favorite kind of poetry is the spoken word. I love hard hitting, powerful poetry that speaks to the soul. The kind of poetry, as we say at Busboys and Poets, that make you have a “Chocolate at the roof of your mouth Mmmmmmmm” moment. That’s the kind of poetry that speaks my kind of language.

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF A POET-ATHLETE?
When I was a SCORES coach, we had to make poetry sessions mandatory because some students were only coming for soccer. If a player didn’t show up, they couldn’t play in the next game. When five of my best players didn’t show up to poetry and we had to play the 2nd ranked team in the league, the odds were set against us. But we won that game and we went on to win the championship. I was more impressed, however, with the nine girls who showed up. They were not the most athletic or skilled, but they were dedicated and passionate.

Poetry is a reflection of yourself. You are poetry so whatever you write is putting yourself on paper.

DO YOU EVER GET NERVOUS ONSTAGE? WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR NERVOUS POET-ATHLETES?
I do get nervous on stage! The best tip I can give to nervous poet athletes is to have the mentality of Lebron James in Game 7 of the 2016 NBA Finals: "I give everything I got and I’m going to live with the results." Just go out and give your all. Be yourself and be satisfied with the results.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR POET-ATHLETES WRITING POETRY?
I advise all of the poet-athletes out there to never stop writing. Poetry is a reflection of yourself. You are poetry so whatever you write is putting yourself on paper. When you are happy, write. When you are angry, write. When you are confused, write.

WHICH POEM DID YOU SHARE WITH US AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I am sharing a poem titled "Soccer and Poetry". I wrote this poem as a dedication to my two passions and my mother. It’s one of the most emotional pieces I’ve ever written.
Soccer and Poetry
Charity Blackwell

Coming up in this world, I didn’t know I would grow to be
A fuse between the crafts of soccer and poetry
But I notice the,
Two combined
have made what you know to be,
Yours truly,
Charity Blackwell
Crafted from soccer and poetry

Soccer
Growing up, I ain’t look like much
Too manly,
Missing the grace
Of the feminine touch

Tomboy with the chip tooth,
From being too rough,
Left out of sleep overs,
I wasn’t girly enough

But Soccer,
Outside of family I grew conscious of team
Not necessarily blood related
But we got the same dreams
Blood
Sweat
Tears
Win by any means…

Poetry
In High School I put the pen to the page
Emotions engaged,
Happy or raged,
I did it for the grade.

But then in college?
I took it to the stage
And judging from the feedback
I guess my rhymes were okay
OLAY!

Soccer
In college every moment on the field
Adrenaline rush,
Ball and touch,
Every moment was a thrill
Winning enough
Games was tough

I LOVE HARD HITTING, POWERFUL POETRY THAT SPEAKS TO THE SOUL.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
But we always showed up still
We learned that,
Win or lose
You never pick or choose
The option of giving up!

**Moving Up**
to the next stage from college to profession,
I taught Soccer and Poetry
To kids with aggression
Towards a society
That even I can see,
Tells them,
They are less
Worthy or deserving as other kids deal the best hands

**Soccer** was their outlet
**Poetry** was their cry.
When they said, “Coach B I feel like giving up!”
I said,
“You better put it in your lines!”
Since I learned through every action
You should share your every passion
Because facts,
The impact on those you touch is everlasting...

Everything happens for a reason.
Every outcome has a cause..
For a period of time I had to resign
And put my passions on PAUSE...
On July 23rd 2015,
My mother’s body laid cold, dead at the scene.
We knew she was sick, but the doctor said she would be fine
“Patience my child, is the golden key”
But God called his angel home.
This lonely feeling I never felt
The agony of sleepless nights
These cards I was never dealt.

My conscious and sanity was boxing it out
Round for round, pound for pound,
But never a clear knock out

“You should have paid attention in CPR class!”
“Why didn’t you drive to the hospital fast?”
“When you tried to breathe life into her she kept moving your hands!”
“Why weren’t you strong enough to pin her body to the land?”

You see these questions kept me guessing,
I kept searching for my lesson
But this quest,
Led to stress,
That made me feel,
More than less than,
The people around me dealt the best hands...

**“Why me? Why now?”**
I felt the creep of depression...
I had to dig in my roots
To
The girl with the chipped tooth
When
The world told her no, she still shot for the goal
I had to
Dig pass my soul
Pass that crust that was stone cold
To that warm core of poetry that grew to make me whole
I had to
Fight for my life
I had to
Write to see the light
At the end of the tunnel that seemed to be nothing but endless nights
I had to
Gather up my team
Friends and family in a huddle,
Writing plays
Finding ways to navigate through this struggle!
So I write because its therapy,
My pen is always there for me!
And I fight because my team is strong.
They help me move my weight along!
Or
I carry some for me.
For there is no I in TEAM.
Write and Fight!
I see the light my love!
*Soccer and Poetry*
Poetry lends a rhythm to the complicated world, helping us speak truth through hard circumstances.

A Poem Entitled: Aren't Really Free

JaQuan W., 13
DC SCORES
I'm not even in my teens,
So why should I worry about these things....
because,
all these things affect us
all these things impact us
It shouldn't be this way
but that's the world we live in today
We got Trump on the track racing Clinton to the White House
They roast each other on national t.v.
Is that who we really want for president?
Is that who I really want to lead me?
"I will do what I want cuz I'll be president
So I can send you back where you came from, you'll be banned
I'll make you start all over
That's how I'll make America great again."
We work 8 hours never
non-stop
I try to be a resident to hide from this "future" president
Trump supporters build walls, we'll take them down
We crossed over to start all over and we aren't going nowhere
This is why voting is important
We don't want to get deported
we can't let him run the country
we can't let him run OUR country

I'm not even in my teens,
So why should I worry about these things....
because,
all these things affect us
all these things impact us
It shouldn't be his way
but that's the world we live in today

6th-8th Plamondon Team
America SCORES Chicago

I wonder what makes people bully
I hear people saying things I know they don't mean
I watch as people's feelings get hurt
I want to help them make it stop
I am the bystander
I pretend that I am fine like nothing is wrong
I feel
I hurt
I crumble
I hide
I am the bystander

I understand I am not alone
I say enough is enough
I dream to one day make a difference
I try to help others reform
I hope for a better tomorrow
I am the bystander

Edwin L. M., 11 • Juan O., 8 • Angel V., 9 • Christian S., 10
DC SCORES

Build

Life is like building a Forever-Tower,
So I go to school not to drool,
But to prepare for college to get more knowledge.
To understand that it is more to a future man than sagging pants,
Not that it is right or wrong,
And I’m definitely not throwing shade,
But do not think you have it made because of a facebook page,
It takes time to develop things to help you reach your dreams,
So I BUILD to succeed,
Not by bricks or stones,
But with my mind, heart and spirit,
Do not waste your life on confusion because confusion is an obstacle course that you have to defeat,
It is ok to make mistakes, so don’t let it throw you down on the ground.
Life is like building a Forever-Tower, so re-BUILD!

Isaiah R., 9
America SCORES St. Louis
For our past, our broken brothers.
We are a family.
Connected through blood, history, and shared struggle.
Why do we fight one another?
We can choose to leave the hardships and troubles in our past
All we need is a breath that lasts.
We’ve felt more pain than others.
But we’ve been able to withstand it by standing together.
We’ve been beaten and broken.
Through slavery, segregation, mass incarceration
The wounds may heal and the scars may fade.
But the pain of a thousand atrocities pulses through my veins.
Beat us down, lock us up,
I choose to beat the odds and lock those struggles in the past.
I refuse to let this nightmare last.
For our past, our broken brothers.
They thought we would never learn.
Literacy was a crime, punishable by death.
Separate, and nowhere close to equal.
 Achievement gaps and failing test scores.
We cried out with love, and hope, and a hunger for knowledge.
We were broken.
But we wrapped the pages of books and the words of poets.
Like a cast to mend our bones.
And in the end, we were glorious.
Mental pain is worse than the physical.
The images I see others portray don’t reflect the me I know.
Day after day being told you aren’t smart enough,
docile enough, compliant enough.
You actually start to believe it.
Why should generations of people feel bad about themselves?
For our past, our broken brothers.
We’re like a pack of wolves.
Stronger and smarter together.
We put up our fist and fight.
Our brotherhood and sisterhood can be greater.
If we come together.
We can be repaired and revived and replenished.
A wise man once said,
“Never look down on someone, unless you’re helping him up.”
I reach down to my siblings, my family, my friends, my neighborhood.
And I look up into the future.

Anonymous
America SCORES Seattle

This Poem is Entitled
Black Lives Matter

The ground shakes,
People stand.
We fight for no more hate,
Taking risks,
Our state is known for
colored people
We fight for the pile of dead people,
We stand together,
Your voice is your power now,
It’s like war,
But war with weeps and shouts,
You are in war now

KIPP DC: AIM Team
DC SCORES
When I was young, all my friends and me cared about was toys and games. But nowadays it seems that all I hear is fake friends talking about gangs. In the night I can’t fall asleep in peace without hearing gunshots. I pray that it’s none of my family or friends that got popped. Why do you have to shoot your glock to represent your block? People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent! The only thing you get from violence is committing a crime then you have to pay the time. You will fail if you go to jail. Prisoners feel like their cell is their own personal hell. People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent! Lately, the violence is also from the people who are supposed to serve and protect. The uniform doesn’t give you the right to be violent towards the community. Altogether we should demonstrate unity. Cops are supposed to protect and serve, but lately it seems like I only see them swerve. Authorities are making bad choices by not letting people use their voices. People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent!

6th-8th Spry Boys Team
America SCORES Chicago

When I was young, all my friends and me cared about was toys and games. But nowadays it seems that all I hear is fake friends talking about gangs. In the night I can’t fall asleep in peace without hearing gunshots. I pray that it’s none of my family or friends that got popped. Why do you have to shoot your glock to represent your block? People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent! The only thing you get from violence is committing a crime then you have to pay the time. You will fail if you go to jail. Prisoners feel like their cell is their own personal hell. People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent! Lately, the violence is also from the people who are supposed to serve and protect. The uniform doesn’t give you the right to be violent towards the community. Altogether we should demonstrate unity. Cops are supposed to protect and serve, but lately it seems like I only see them swerve. Authorities are making bad choices by not letting people use their voices. People, please stop the violence, the violence makes the world go silent!

6th-8th Spry Boys Team
America SCORES Chicago
Breaking the Chains

Breaking the chains from the caucasian who taught me to read
to slaves who have been freed
while we asked “why me?”
to the north we wanted to flee
escapes we tried to make
we sung songs for god’s sake
wanting to save the next generation
either life behind bars or planting crops while singing
chains we hear rattling and ringing
together
locking arms marching down streets
hoping one day to go home to start a career of our own
leaving tears of a heart and a soul
stories passed down about what we fought for.
looking down at our rags as we could
and will be the generation to break the chains

Jalia C., 11
DC SCORES

San Francisco

My family raised me in a city
Called San Francisco.
San Francisco is my home,
Where I live.
San Francisco is my city,
Where the muni passes,
By every other street.
San Francisco is my circle,
Where people gather,
From all over the world.
San Francisco is my heart,
Where the people who raised me,
Are called 家庭.
San Francisco is me,
A small boy living in every moment.

Chris L., 9
America SCORES Bay Area

POETRY CAN SAY LOUD AND PROUD WHO WE ARE, WHO WE LOVE, AND WHERE WE COME FROM.
My Side

I am from the crowd where people are fearless
Where our technology is infinite
I am from the place where your dreams become reality
I am from where your fear becomes your courage
Where your hatred becomes your love
And where your sadness becomes your happiness
I am from the city where walls are built we build bridges
I am from the city known for its lights
I am from the city known for its bridge
From that dry pie Michael’s ice cream
Running down my chin.
I am from the city of San Francisco
Where if we have pain or fear we face it together
And where my run of life began and where I will always call my home

Eriberto J., 10
America SCORES Bay Area

This Is Who I Am

I am the man that brought these raging waters
wonder what it would be to be a animal near its death
hear the raging roars of dinosaur bones
coming out of the ground see the air in
the sky making a beautiful bright sky
want all the food someone could ever have am
the man that brought these raging waters
pretend I am a paleontologist digging up
bones from prehistoric creatures
feel my heart beating faster as the time goes by
trying to go away like a butterfly touch the soft
and cuddly skin of my dog abercrombie
worry that we will never come to life cry
am the man that brought these raging waters
understand that you won’t get everything you
want say that god will protect us to our ever life
dream about going to mexico try to forget my sad past
hope that I will never forget my loving family am
the man that brought these raging waters
And my soul from beyond that shadow that
lies floating on the floor. shall be lifted???
NEVERMORE

Jesus S., 10
America SCORES Bay Area

Untitled

I am nothing, no I am special
I am lazy, no I am athletic
I am boring, no I am crazy
I am plain, no I am creative
I am so many things, I am many things that are wonderful
You might not think I’m special
You might think I am fragile, yes it could be true
But I’m protecting you
If you protect me, you’ll see that I’m many things
I am special to you and me

Carina C., 10
America SCORES Denver

I Am

I am from Cuba. Yo soy de Cuba.
I am from Mexico. Yo soy de Mexico.
I am from Puerto Rico. Yo soy de Puerto Rico.
I am from Sudan. En fle tor Sudan.
I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo.
I am kutoka Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo
I am respectful. Yo soy respetuosa.
I am intelligent. Yo soy intelli gente.
I am strong. Yo soy fuerte.
I am loving. Yo soy amorosa.
I am beautiful. En cirp pischi.
I am special. I am maalum.

Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy Core Girls Team
America SCORES Cleveland

Whether Poetry or Soccer — You Know You’ve Got to Represent
Tradeweb proudly supports America SCORES in their mission to inspire children to lead healthy lives.

Congratulations to the poet-athletes on all their success this year!

www.tradeweb.com

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The Power of Children's Poetry

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volkswagengroupamerica.com
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www.Hunt4Soccer.org
Our Schools!

BAY AREA
1610 HARRISON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103
Alvarado Elementary School
Alta Vista Elementary School
Ascend Middle School
Bret Harte Elementary School
Brayton Elementary School
Chavez Middle School
Cleveland Elementary School
Cohen Elementary School
Davidson Middle School
ER Taylor Elementary School
Everett Middle School
Flynn Elementary School
Francisco Middle School
Garfield Elementary School
Greenleaf Elementary School
Haves Elementary School
Henry Ford Elementary School
Hoover Elementary School
Hillcrest Elementary School
International Community School
Fair Oaks Elementary School
John Gill Elementary School
John Muir Elementary School
Junipero Serra Elementary School
Lafayette Elementary School
Lakeview Elementary School
Laurel Dell Elementary School
Longfellow Elementary School
Manzanita Elementary School
Martin Elementary School
Marshall Elementary School
Mission Education Center
MKK Elementary School
MLK Elementary School
MLK Middle School
Mason Elementary School
Ochoa Middle School
Paul Revere K-8 School
Redding Elementary School
Salvation Army KROC
Center San Francisco
San Francisco Community K-8 School
San Pedro Elementary School
Sanchez Elementary School
Sharp Elementary School
Tenderloin Community
School Elementary School
Tomas Edison Charter Academy
Up on Top
Venetia Valley K-8
Winton Middle School

CHICAGO
600 W. CERMAK ROAD
SUITE 204
CHICAGO, IL 60616
Ambrose Flammandon
Elementary School
Charles Evans Hughes
Elementary School
Johnson School of Excellence
John Spy Community School
Leonard 7 Elementary School
Pilsen Community Academy
Rosario Castellanos
Elementary School
Roswell B. Mason
Elementary School
Whittier Dual Language School
Capital City Public Charter
School—Elementary
Capital City Public Charter
School—Middle
Cardozo Education Campus
Cesar Chavez Public Charter
School Middle School for Public
Policy—Chavez Prep
Elotl-Hine Middle School
Harrison Recreation
Center—Elementary
Harrison Recreation
Center—Middle
Hart Middle School
H.D. Cooke Elementary School
Heart Recreation Center
Imagine Hope—Lamond Campus
Imagine Hope—Tolson Campus
J.C. Nalle Elementary School
Jefferson Middle School
Kelly Miller Middle School
KIPP DC: AIM Academy
KIPP DC: KEY Academy
KIPP DC: QUEST Academy
KIPP DC: WILL Academy
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus
Leckie Elementary School
Lincoln Middle School
MacFarland Middle School
Marie Reed Elementary School
Miner Elementary School
Molen Elementary School
Or Elementary School
Parkview Recreation
Center—Elementary
Parkview Recreation
Center—Middle
Payne Elementary School
Powell Elementary School
Raymond Education
Campus—Elementary
Raymond Education
Campus—Middle
Raymond Recreation Center
Seaton Elementary School
Taft Recreation Center
Thomas Elementary School
Thomson Elementary School
Truesdell Education
Campus—Elementary
Truesdell Education
Campus—Middle
Truman Elementary School
Turkey Thicket Recreation
Center—Elementary
Turkey Thicket Recreation
Center—Middle
Turner Elementary School
Upshur Recreation Center
Washington School for Girls

CLEVELAND
3631 PERKINS AVENUE
UNIT 2CE
CLEVELAND, OH 44114
Arlethius Ward School
Buhrer Dual Language Academy
Campus International School
Case School
Fullerton School of Academics
Mound STEM School
Newton D. Baker School of the Arts
Robinson G. Jones School
Thomas Jefferson International
Newcomers Academy
Wade Park School
Willow School

DC
1224 M STREET, NW
SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
Allan Elementary School
Amidon Elementary School
Anne Beers Elementary School
Bancroft Elementary School
Barnard Elementary School
Barry Farm Recreation Center
Brightwood Education
Campus—Elementary
Brightwood Education
Campus—Middle
Burville Elementary School

DENVER
4900 WEST 29TH AVENUE
DENVER, CO 80212
Barnum Elementary School
CMS Community School
Cowell Elementary School
Douall Elementary School
Eagleton Elementary School
Goldrick Elementary School
Knapp Elementary School
Munroe Elementary School
Schmitt Elementary School
Taylor Academy School

LA
3685 MOTOR AVENUE
SUITE 110
LOS ANGELES, CA 90034
Braddock Dr. Elementary School
Charnock Rd. Elementary School
Palms Elementary School
Palms Middle School

MILWAUKEE
7101 WEST GOOD HOPE ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53223
ALBA Elementary School
Clarke Street School
Hayes Bilingual School
LaFollette School
Lincoln Avenue School
Riley Elementary School

NEW ENGLAND
29 GERMANIA STREET
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130
Boston Teachers Union K-8 School
Charles Sumner Elementary
Clarence R. Edwards
Middle School
Curley K-8
David A. Ellis Elementary
Dennis Haley K-8 School
Donald McKay K-8 School
Franklin D. Roosevelt K-8
Gardner Pilot Academy
Henry Grew Elementary
Jackson/Mann K-8
James P. Timilty Middle School
James W. Hennigan K-8 School
John F. Kennedy Elementary
Joseph Hurley K-8 School
Lila G. Frederick Middle School
Maoa Umana Academy
The Mahler School
Orchard Gardens K-8 School
Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary
Rafael Hernandez K-8
Washington Irving Middle School
William Blackstone
Innovation School
William Monroe Trotter
Innovation School
William Ohrenberger School
Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Boston
Young Achievers
Science & Math K-8

NY

520 8TH AVENUE
2ND FLOOR
SUITE 201C
NEW YORK, NY 10018

Hamilton Grange Middle School
New Design Middle School
PS 4 Elementary School
PS 95 Elementary School
PS 125 Elementary School
PS 161 Elementary &
Middle School
PS 173 Elementary School
PS 192 Elementary School
PS 249 Elementary School
PS 325 Elementary School

SEATTLE

2450 6TH AVENUE
SOUTH, #203
SEATTLE, WA 98134

Bailey Gatzert Elementary School
Dunlap Elementary School
Hawthorne Elementary School
Maple Elementary School
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
Rashill Elementary School

ST. LOUIS

BETTER FAMILY LIFE, 5415
PAGE BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112

Barack Obama Elementary School
CEBC - Cultural Educational
Business Center
Jefferson Elementary School
Lucas Crossing Elementary School
Washington Elementary School

VANCOUVER

3023-3713 KENSINGTON AVE
BURNABY, BC V5B
0A7, CANADA

Cedar Hills Elementary School
Edmonds Community School
Edmonds Community School
Hjorth Road Elementary School
Holly Elementary School
Kirkbridge Elementary School
Senator Reid Elementary School
Shide Avenue Community School
Taylor Park Elementary School
Twelfth Avenue Elementary School
Crazy Comics

Fill in the bubbles below with an onomatopoeia that describes the sound of what’s going on in the comic! Remember, an onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like the thing it’s describing, like “buzz” or “plop.”

Llena las burbujas abajo con una onomatopeya que describe el sueño de lo que está pasando en el tebeo. Acuérdate, una onomatopeya es una palabra que suena como la cosa que describe, como “miau” o “bzzz.”

Let’s Doodle!

Did your find all the soccer balls? Want the answer? You can find it upside down at the bottom of this page.

¿Encontraste todos los balones de fútbol? ¿Quieres la solución? Se puede encontrarla al revés al pie de la página.
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