Kicker!

2019

Poetry Unites

Original Poetry by the Poet-Athletes of America SCORES
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Write how many you found here:

Escribe aquí cuántos encontraste:

BONUS
How many words can you think of that rhyme with "goal?"
We did one for you.
¿Cuántas palabras puedes pensar de esa rima con "goal"?
Hicimos una para ti.

ROLL

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I have early memories of playing soccer. Kicking a ball, instead of catching it. It was a strange thing to do in the town that I grew up in. Of course, I wouldn’t understand that until much later, and, by then, soccer already meant the world to me.

Where else could you kick and scratch your way into a huddle of fourteen other kids, hopped up on Skittles. Or run all the way across the field, only to discover that your “Killer Bees” had already kicked the ball into the wrong goal.

By under 10’s, things changed; concepts that I only knew from movies, like “Do or do not, there is no try,” became real with the ball at my feet. At halftime, we would put our hands in and say, “Fly like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” We thought that our coach had invented the expression. I asked her what she meant by it, and she said it means that, for the next 32 minutes, you leave your heart and soul on that field. It means ‘We ain’t gonna do what they think we’re gonna do. We’re gonna mix it up out there.’

It wasn’t until much later, after I started to write stories and make paintings, that I understood why soccer was so appealing to me. Sure, both rely on creativity. But to thrive, to be as great as an Alex Morgan or a Wayne Rooney, you have to be unpredictable. You have to surprise even yourself by taking risks and journeying into unknown places. Sometimes, this means doing the opposite of what you’re “supposed” to do. In soccer, this is important because it’s often the most unpredictable move that catches the other team off guard, and leads to a goal.

One thing I’ve learned about painting is that you can’t paint with fear. Yoda once said, “Fear is the path to the dark side, Luke.”

You can’t be afraid to mess up. The best soccer players make the right decisions almost all the time, but they experiment a lot in practice. They pretend their legs are paint brushes, and splatter different colors on the canvas to see things in a different way.

Like painting, soccer is a game of skill. But, it’s also a game of chance. So, mix it up out there. Dip your feet in some paint. And write about it.

Ben Olsen
Painter and Artist
D.C. United Head Coach
Former USMNT Player
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 low-income urban 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: 88% of students report higher self-confidence, saying that “America SCORES makes me feel good about myself.” Teachers also say that students show greater class participation and, in turn, achieve higher academic performance. Not only that, but students increase their physical fitness levels. America SCORES aims to further inspire these poet-athletes to have a greater sense of confidence to make a difference in the world.
2019 Spotlight!

Shining a light on the poet-athletes, coaches, and teams who make America scores great.
Lincoln Avenue Feeds the Community

The Lincoln Avenue SCORES team always does well on the soccer field

NOW IN THEIR NINTH SEASON OF SCORES, THEY CHAMPION TEAMWORK AND MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE IS INCLUDED AT PRACTICE AND IN GAMES. THEY ARE EXEMPLARS OF THE SCORES PROGRAM; THEIR ATTENDANCE RATE IS 98%, AND 100% OF THE TEAM IMPROVED THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS (PACER).

What is more impressive though, is how dedicated they are to being leaders among their classmates, as well as in their community. Each year the Lincoln team’s service projects are focused on issues that significantly impact the neighborhood around the school, and the rest of the city more broadly.

This year the Lincoln Avenue team decided the problem they wanted to address was the homelessness issue in Milwaukee. While they acknowledged that they would not be able to solve the problem entirely, our students had noticed that the homeless people were holding signs asking for food, and they thought that they could provide that food for them.

The team partnered with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission and learned that they needed 100 bag lunches to help feed the homeless. So, they created a writing team that wrote letters to four grocery stores asking for food donations, a poster making team that advertised a snack sale to the school population, and a needs assessment team that researched how much money was needed for the bags.

At the snack sale, which the team held during their recess, they sold ice pops, fruit snacks, rice crispy squares, and pretzels to raise money. They sold 988v items, exceeding their fundraising goal. First, the team decorated the bags with positive messages. Then, they filled, packed and delivered them to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission with a donation of the excess funds.
My Name is Miguel Aquino

I AM AN AMERICA SCORES ALUMNUS.
Miguel joined LA SCORES as a poet-athlete in 2003, and he says that the main reason was to be part of a team. Growing up as an immigrant with little ability to speak English, he remembers feeling alone. “Through LA SCORES, I learned what teamwork meant as well as what it meant to be part of a family. The people I met through the program are some of my closest friends today.”

I AM A SITE COORDINATOR FOR LA SCORES.
Miguel made sure to give back to the program that gave him the resources to succeed, as a high school volunteer, substitute coach, and, for two years, girls’ soccer coach. Now, Miguel is a Site Coordinator at Braddock Drive Elementary. He says, “One of the reasons I continue to come back is because I enjoy teaching young people the values of LA SCORES.”

I AM A 25 YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE.
LA SCORES showed Miguel the power of teamwork. He remembers, “Any task I tried to achieve growing up, I felt was accomplished through the teamwork that my friends and I learned in the program. Teamwork is an essential skill for life.”

“Teamwork has pushed me to accomplish many goals in my life, such as graduating college. My friends and family, they were able to motivate me to keep on working hard until I reached my goal.” Miguel recognizes the importance of what it meant to work as a team, and he carries that lesson today, passing it on to the kids on his SCORES team.

The best advice Miguel can give to the poet-athletes of 2019 is to never give up until you have given it your all. “There will always be tough tasks that get in your way as you continue to grow. It is how you handle the situation every time that will make you into a better person,” offers Miguel.
Coach Gagliardi Brings a Love of the Game

America SCORES Cleveland first began programming at the Willson School, a school that provides a continuum of services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, in the fall of 2018. And in that season, their first coach was Coach Gagliardi.

Coach Gagliardi, who was an assistant soccer coach for a girls’ Middle School team at Phoenix Day School of the Deaf before coming to Ohio, knew she had to be part of the program. While in Phoenix, she learned the ASL signs for soccer terminology and picked up on the best ways to coach with deaf children. She knew her knowledge would make the integration of the SCORES program easier for the students on her team, and readily agreed to coach the Willson Core Boys team.

The impact of the SCORES program on her poet-athletes, both as individuals and as a team, was immediately recognized by Coach Gagliardi. A team composed of deaf children, as well as hearing students, created an atmosphere of inclusion and acceptance. She was impressed that after the first few months, her poet-athletes began to coach and motivate themselves not only on the field, but in the classroom as well.

Coach Gagliardi appreciates that SCORES is different from other programs offered at the Willson School, because SCORES participation is not dependent on behavior during the school day. When a child has an issue, instead of kicking them off the team, she is able to use soccer and the leadership skills learned through sport to discuss and work on the problem.

Coach Gagliardi says that her main goal for her team is to love the game of soccer. She wants them to continue to grow, and show sportsmanship and teamwork in each and every season that they are part of the SCORES program.

Coach Gagliardi is eager to see the progress her team will make with each season. Every Friday her team files into her room, dressed and ready for the field, chanting, “It’s game day Coach! We’re ready!”
America SCORES New York

The PS 173 soccer teams examined the meaning of beautification. They decided that they could make a difference by composting school food and using the compost to create a sustainable school garden. By engaging in this process, they helped their peers and community to appreciate the process of using trash or unwanted food to create something beautiful.

America SCORES Bay Area

The Woodrow Wilson Elementary School team addressed energy efficiency, and how to cut down on waste in energy, power, and food to better the environment. The students created brochures with information that provided direction on how to become a greener household!

America SCORES Chicago

The 6th-8th grade girls at Cardenas Elementary were able to raise over $600 for the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago. Students held a raffle for three leather items of a well-known brand as their team business strategy. They partnered with a local shop owner, who donated the goods for the cause.

Canada SCORES Vancouver

The Stride Avenue team learned what it means to be grateful, and decided to show the entire school what they learned. They created a Gratitude Tree in a public place in the school, to encourage students, teachers, parents and other visitors of the school to name some of the people that they are grateful for in their community.

Boston SCORES

The Mather Elementary School team project “Clean Playgrounds = Clean Fun” encouraged the students to partner with the City of Boston’s “Love Your Block” initiative. The students organized a community clean-up of one of school’s busy nearby playgrounds, Quincy Park.
My Sisters and I

I live in a small house
With my sisters and I
They get on my nerves
And here is why

Lily, so loud
Energetic I suppose
But she always gets away
With stealing my clothes

Helena, so small
As messy as can be
When it comes to cleaning
It’s always done by me

Sofia is so nice
One of the best
I can prove it
By a lie detector test

Even though they are messy
Loud and nice
They are fun to have around
I will never think twice

Anna C.
ALBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 5TH GRADE
AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE
So Hard to Be a Kid

"Sit down!"
"Stop that!"
"Put that down!"
"Pick that up!"
"Be quiet!"
"Speak up!"
"Pipe down!"

It's soooooo hard being a kid
Have you ever thought about it?
Always having to be told what to do
When all you want to do is be you

My parents think that being a kid is soooooo easy
That being this age is easy-peezy
Well, let me tell you something that just may shock you
Let me fill you in on a thing or two

First, you're always being told what to do
"Take out the trash!" "Put on your shoes"
"Get off that!" "Put that back on the ground"
"Stop running like that before you fall down!"

Oh! I know you'll say your life as an adult is hard
But have you ever had to decide where to play on the yard?!!
Geez! It's a mess! A constant stress!
Of trying to remember aaaaaaaaaall of your rules and still be your best

And Fortnite? How can I continue to play
When the teachers give me piles of homework due the next day
And watching my little sibling, have you ever tried that?!?
I'd have an easier time trying to baptize a cat!

Don't tell me it's harder being an adult! Don't even try it!
You'll say something like "it's tough paying bills..." Nope! I don't buy it!
You try making tough decisions without being asked
Like where to ditch the nasty veggies... with the dog or in the trash?

You know being a kid can be difficult. It can really be bad.
When your parents start yelling all because they're mad
About giving you chores like doing the dishes and you take it
But why would you give me something to do like that when you know that I'll break it?

All I'm saying is sometimes being a kid can be rough
You try being a kid and you'll see that it's tough...

Jesus C. & Jaiden R.
PALMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 5TH GRADE
AMERICA SCORES LOS ANGELES
My Feelings are Art

My feelings are art
Like orange and yellow
Showing my happiness.
Another is dark red
Showing my anger.
Deep blue really gets me down
While I find bright green to be really disgusting.
These are all feelings that mean art to me.
I am happy to have them
Orange, yellow, red, blue and green
Or else I would have none.

Devin R.
PS 173, 5th Grade
America Scores New York

Family Dreams

What happens to my family’s dream?
Does it wash away
Or does it run away
Or cracks like a raw egg
And melts like snow
Or freezes up like ice
Or maybe it dries up in the sun
Trying to run
Or does it go rotten
Or does it get stuck
In spider webs
Or burn up in the sun
Or drown up in the water
Or gets eaten up by an animal
Oh, I know.
Maybe it goes ka-boom!
And turn into ashes...
Or maybe it goes over the hill and through the woods
And then up the mountain to become true
My mom’s dream is for me to keep on going to school
All the way to college and have a good job
For in the future my family can live well and enjoy my success.

Emiliano N.
Mario Umana Academy, 4th Grade
Boston Scores

Black Beautiful Queens

We are young, black beautiful queens.
We rock that yellow not that green.
We are queens.
We are friends.
We will grow all the way to the end.
We are proud, we are strong,
when we are together,
nothing can go wrong.
We are the best queens of them all.
That may seem kinda mean,
the way we play as a team,
you don’t want none.

Yellow Team Poem

Warner Girls Leadership Academy
3rd-5th Grade
America Scores Cleveland

My Feelings are Art

My feelings are art
Like orange and yellow
Showing my happiness.
Another is dark red
Showing my anger.
Deep blue really gets me down
While I find bright green to be really disgusting.
These are all feelings that mean art to me.
I am happy to have them
Orange, yellow, red, blue and green
Or else I would have none.

Devin R.
PS 173, 5th Grade
America Scores New York
WHAT IS IT LIKE TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL SOCCER?
It really is, for me, a dream come true. Ever since I can remember, I was always telling my mom and my dad that I wanted to play professional soccer, specifically for the Revolution after going to the games as a kid. And to be able to do something that you love for a living, I can’t take this for granted. It’s something that I’m hoping to do for as long as I can. And it’s something that I’ve really enjoyed so far.

WHO WERE YOUR ROLE MODELS WHILE GROWING UP? WERE THERE ANY SOCCER PLAYERS THAT YOU LIKED TO WATCH?
All of my older siblings, in particular my older brother. I watched and learned a lot from him and my dad, in terms of soccer stuff and off-the-field stuff. My whole family was instrumental and such a huge part of getting me to where I am today. From the soccer side of things, I really liked watching and learning from Beckham and the Manchester United teams from the 90’s. Those were the teams that I watched back then; nowadays it’s a bit different. But, when I was a little kid, it was mostly my family, my brother and my dad that I really looked up to.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A LEADER ON THE FIELD? WHAT ABOUT BEING A LEADER OFF THE FIELD?
For me, it’s an honor to even be on the field. So, I always try to work as hard as I can in those moments. And I am not a really loud guy, so I try to lead by example. I find that by doing that I get players around me to feel the same way so everyone leads by example. It encourages players to do the right thing on the field and that has always been my goal, to improve the play on the field for the entire team. Off the field, it’s about doing the right things. Being a professional soccer player, we’re given a lot of opportunities that others are not given. I think that whenever you have the opportunity to help someone, brighten someone’s day, or do something in the community, I think that it’s essential that we do that.

If you focus on yourself and having a good time, you will enjoy what you do and you will be successful.
It not only makes someone else’s day, it might make them do something nice for the person next to them. Not everyone is as lucky as we may be with the opportunities that we have been given, and I think it is very important to use our platform to help out as much as we can.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE FOR THE AMERICA SCORES POET-ATHLETES TODAY?
My advice to the SCORES poet-athletes is pretty simple: be yourself and have fun. I think it is really important to not worry about what others have to say about you. If you focus on yourself and having a good time, you will enjoy what you do and you will be successful. Always having fun leads to working hard, and having a great time doing it.
Train Your Brain with a Game

Game Time!

Flip the Script

America SCORES Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the words below to reveal six of the cities where America SCORES affiliates and poet-athletes kick it.

NSTOOB ____________________________

NSA NRCSICOAF ______________________

LLDANEEVC __________________________

CAOUVEVRN __________________________

PDOLARNT ____________________________

EWN ROYK ____________________________

“I’M GLAD YOU’RE ON MY TEAM”
FANCY FOOTWORK

A-mazing Goal

Weave through the defenders and obstacles to get the ball into the goal. Your team needs one more score to win the game!
Break Through

Here I am
I’m in my place
I’m taking up a certain space

Where ideas flow into my mind
Like a river on a cliff
A place where creativity comes to reality
A place of breakthrough

Joshua F.
TWELFTH AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
5TH GRADE,
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER

Soccer

Soccer, soccer, soccer
I love to play.
Defending is what I do every day.
Soccer makes me strong
And when I play I feel super.
Soccer makes me feel like a superstar.
Soccer is me.
I want to play soccer when I am older.
I dream of playing soccer.

Soccer, soccer, soccer
Practicing will make me better
So I can follow my dream.
Following my dream will lead me to success!
I love soccer!
It’s my dream and my dream will be true!

Diego G.
PATRICK J. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
5TH GRADE,
BOSTON SCORES

16
**Soccer**

Soccer is a fun sport  
You pass the ball to each other  
And you score goals and saves  
You win or lose, but you shake each other’s hands  
And say ‘Good Game!’  
Then you go home and tell your parents that you won or lost  
And they give you a big hug

**My School**

Begin with 3 cups of gold medals.  
Add ½ spoons of Soccer balls  
Toss 9 teaspoons of passion.  
Mix 5 gallons of commitment, leadership,  
sportsmanship and teamwork.  
Sprinkle love all over.  
Mix it and put in the oven for 45 minutes.  
Serve with lots of love and victories.

**Poetry is My Destiny**

When I write poetry,  
it comes from the heart  
I don’t play around,  
I work very hard  
When I first met poetry,  
I felt like I was in love  
I’m the Poetry Queen  
Words run seamlessly  
through my blood  
My mom supports me, and I do what I should  
She tells me my poetry is very good  
Poetry opens a new world  
And it unlocks doors  
I’m not always sure which direction to go  
But, when it ends  
I always come back for more  
Poetry is my destiny  
It’s the best thing that has happened to me  
But I know performing my words  
is how I’ll get others to see  
All that I can be  
Poetry gives you everything you need  
It can help you escape reality  
Words can bring people together  
or tear them apart  
I hope my words inspire you  
Because they’re my work of art  
Finally, the stage is all mine  
It’s my time to shine  
I don’t just want to be known  
as the little girl playing soccer  
I want to show people what I can do  
I want to be known for my words  
I just want to be heard!

**The Reason I Joined Canada SCORES**

The reason I joined Canada SCORES  
Was to play with my friends and score some goals.  
I like to shoot...I like to pass  
And I like the feeling of the cold wet grass.  
I like it even more for an audience to see me  
It’s so much better than staring at the TV.  
The reason I joined Canada SCORES  
is because I love my friends  
NEED I SAY NO MORE!

**Mohammed Abdul R.**

HJORTH ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
5TH GRADE,  
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER

**Fatima M. H.**

TECA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
4TH GRADE,  
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

**The Reason I Joined**  
**Canada SCORES**

The reason I joined Canada SCORES  
Was to play with my friends and score some goals.  
I like to shoot...I like to pass  
And I like the feeling of the cold wet grass.  
I like it even more for an audience to see me  
It’s so much better than staring at the TV.  
The reason I joined Canada SCORES  
is because I love my friends  
NEED I SAY NO MORE!

**Lilly M.**

MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
4TH GRADE,  
AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO

**Nehemiah T.**

BAILEY GATZERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
5TH GRADE,  
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE
Black Chakra is Dropping Some Knowledge

Jacob Mayberry (a.k.a. Black Chakra) is a Baltimore based spoken word artist and emcee. His talent has been showcased on stages across America; he has represented Baltimore not only as part of a slam team at the National Poetry Slam Championship, but also as an individual at the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship.

Black Chakra is proud to say he is a nerd; loves to discuss his favorite comics, the culture surrounding them, and performs wearing his Superman tee shirt. He is part of DewMore Baltimore, teaching students at Woodlawn high school the art of writing and performing poetry. Black Chakra has also mentored several DC SCORES poet-athletes as they work on their writing and performance ahead of the Our Words Our City poetry events.

WHAT GOT YOU STARTED WRITING POETRY, AND WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO KEEP GOING TODAY?
I was inspired to write poetry through Hip-Hop. I have always had a respect for the genre, and the poetry that the artists within it display. I fell in love with words and the usage of them as a child and I think it’s that feeling that I hold on to when I do it today.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PASS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF POETRY AND SPOKEN WORD TO YOUNGER PEOPLE?
Each one teach one. I feel like once a person amasses an amount of knowledge, it is a selfish thing to do to hoard it and not share it with the people who can also benefit from it. Through my Afrocentricity, I believe in a circular system of community and because of that I believe that the pedagogy is important to pass on.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE TOPICS TO WRITE ABOUT AND WHY?
Oppression and black struggle specifically; I was always taught that if black men talk about these things they are murdered or silenced. So, I rebelled against that idea by directly challenging white supremacy and all of its facets whenever I write.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PASS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF POETRY AND SPOKEN WORD TO YOUNGER PEOPLE?
Each one teach one. I feel like once a person amasses an amount of knowledge, it is a selfish thing to do to hoard it and not share it with the people who can also benefit from it. Through my Afrocentricity, I believe in a circular system of community and because of that I believe that the pedagogy is important to pass on.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE AMERICA SCORES POET-ATHLETES?
Memorization; memorizing and practicing my poem. If I know I know the poem and I have the performance down, I tell myself there’s nothing to be nervous about. This is what we practice for.

WRITING POETRY?
Poetry is not writing. It’s not performance. It’s not voice. It’s all spirit, and as long as what you are saying is a part of your spirit then you’ll be great. I am who I am because I write what’s in me; I write nothing more, nothing less. When a poet does not write what is in them, I feel they die a little every time they pick up the pen. When you always write what’s in your soul, you become more than a poet; you become a being of light who walks in their purpose and that means everything.

WHICH POEM DID YOU SHARE WITH US AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
The poem I shared is called “Pass” by Black Chakra. You can find the performance on YouTube and on Facebook where it has 1 million views. I decided to share that poem specifically because I was in front of a group who understood sports, and I felt like at that moment that that group could benefit the most from hearing it.
Pass
Black Chakra

What I tell my son when he says he wants to play for the NFL:

...We are done with field work.

They are too comfortable, shooting down the idea of blacks passing from bullets then throwing bullet passes, naw!

Hell if it’s a million dollar deal, they want Emmitt Smith but treat you like Emmett Till.

They like their teams divided; not even Johnny could unite us. They like their blacks shackled, tackled, concussed. Like you ACL tear, but don’t drop to your knees, you can kneel for the play, but play with the flag, they throw a flag on the play, tell you you can’t play.

But this ain’t no game to you; $9 million dollars a year ain’t change to you.
But that contract is them handing chains to you. They’re Steelers.... of rights. Who will forgive a fumble, but penalize you for holding on to your Blackness.

You ever wonder?
How the country fell in love with the sport where the black men hit each other, like Mandingo fighting?
The whole thing is a slave ritual; thought our people found freedom when we ran. But now, they got you running back. Got you tossing pigskins like bales of cotton. Zig zag, shuck and jive, Bo Jackson, Bojangles, you looking at this game from the wrong angles.

They could never understand your anger, when they know shotgun as a play, and you know it as a threat. When you know boys who stepped to the police, and met their defensive end.

They will deny their involvement when your brain is scrambled. Imagine, blacks thinking they found heaven. Then under a helmet is where you and Hell met. But then they’ll say, “Why you all mad? You all Madden!”

Didn’t Super Bowl 2018 teach you the only way you’ll beat patriotism is if you’re willing to lose to their eagle, or ego. Why you want to play for them? America ain’t no team player.
New Orleans didn’t see no saints during Katrina. In Detroit, they lion to the people. You can’t get a win when you’re the Browns, whether in Cleveland or LA, they’ll charge us wherever we touchdown. When you realize your blood is royal, bleeding purple, they’ll ask you what you raven about. You get to speaking like a panther, you’ll see hawks. And in Oakland, they’ll be raiding your house. See, the racists roll in the cults, so giant you tend to see titans, bolt from their powers, like your revolution is a cardinal sin. These cowboys will always pack us in coffins, and you can’t say nothing, no matter how many dead children Chicago bares.

But because you my son, you too falcon to have your wings clipped. You’ll buck when they buccaneer, meaning the lies they’ll try to pirate your rights with, you’ll fight with. They’ll say, slavery and genocide you must forget, but always remember when New York got hit with the Jets. And then, they’ll tell you that you ain’t no team player. Tell them the team you play for has red skin, because you’ve been washing tons of blood and it won’t come off. My niggas so fly, we should win an ESPY off of lynchings alone.

No, son! If they don’t respect your struggle, they don’t get your muscle, child. You are black. You don’t need their field. You’re gonna be running your whole life.
My friend over here might be the next president
My friend over there might be the next soccer player
My friend in the crowd might be the next lawyer
I might even be the next Maya Angelou!

Did you know that we are the future?
When I look at this world I don’t like what I see
So it’s gonna be up to me
And you! And you! And you!
I think you know what to do
You might think you’re never gonna be somebody
BUT, if you got a big dream
You work hard and study
You can, and you will
And get even better still!

You might think that you can’t but YES YOU CAN!

YES WE CAN!

‘Cause we are the future!
‘Cause we are the what? “the future!”
We are the what? “the future!”
We are the what? “the future!”

DIAMOND G.
SEATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 5TH GRADE, DC SCORES
SHINE

Just because we are kids,
Doesn’t mean we can’t make an impact.
But how can you make goals without dreams.
This is our time to shine!

We’re bigger than our school.
We’re bigger than our ‘hood.
We’re bigger than our city.
This is our time to shine!

Each day we come to school,
We’re sometimes told we’re role models,
And to work together as a team.
This is our time to shine!

We love our school.
We love our hood.
We love our city.
This is our time to shine!

We’re learning about our world,
To make it a better, safer place.
Our opinion is needed for change.
This is our time to shine!

People, listen to our future.
As we start to grow up,
We want to be part of this change.
This is our time to shine!

Our future is right ahead of us.
And we get closer to our destiny,
Fighting hard to overcome how we’re seen.
This is our time to shine!

We’re putting down our fists.
So we can talk this out,
Us working to solve problems
should mean something.

But is anybody really listening to us?
It’s on YOU to help us shine!

A SUNNY AMAZING WORLD

A sunny amazing world
Where everybody gets along
Where nobody gets hurt
Where you are always happy
No pollution
Where you don’t have to live by the rules of anyone
You are perfectly free
You can never be homeless
You can never be hungry
Now that would be an amazing place to live
And how can we bring that reality to real life?
Well, if you see somebody on the streets
Begging for something to eat
And having nowhere to sleep
Help out a fellow human
Put yourself in someone else’s shoes
If you choose
This world can be better
It’s up to you

Girls Team Poem
Fullerton School of Academics,
3rd-5th Grade, America Scores Cleveland

What will you accomplish when you grow up?

Daniel I.
Henry Grew Elementary School,
4th Grade, Boston Scores
POWER

You ready big fella!? 
We see the clouds, 
We see the crowds, 
And we are proud, to be where we’re from 
Catch up brother, we’re on the run. 
We like to be loud. 
We like to be loud 
But we show respect 
The human race? We must serve and protect! 
Our power comes from within, so no matter what’
BE PROUD OF YOUR SKIN! 
We’re still back, in the USA 
Like Jesse Jackson and OJ 
We stand strong, in control, of our souls, with our goals 
Because we hold, ourselves high. 
So ask yourself, 
How can you succeed if you don’t try!? 

BOYS TEAM POEM
HUGHES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3RD-5TH GRADE, AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO

WHEN WE JOIN HANDS

When we join hands, 
we’re together. 
When we flap our wings, 
we’re above each other. 
We might not be together forever, 
but happily, now we are. 
Sometimes we have to go, 
but it is hard. 
You can’t hold on forever, but you can try. 
All of us are different, 
and we should be happy about it. 
War should stop, 
because that will make us let go. 

ALICE G. 
CEASER CHAVEZ 
5TH GRADE, ACTIVE CHILDREN PORTLAND
Who are we?
Young Black Men.
Young Men take your place and rise up.

Who are we?
Young Black Men.
Frowned upon by many but worthy of your respect.
Who are we?
Young Black Men.
You know who we are, you know that we are here to stay,
Our pride, our privilege.

We are:
Young Black Men.
We deserve it,
We demand it,
We will rise up,
Educated, powerful, talented, young.

Young Black Men.

BOYS TEAM POEM.
WADE PARK SCHOOL, 3RD-5TH GRADE, AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

BULLY FREE STARTS WITH ME

Bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me

Look into the eyes of a bully you already know
When a bully comes to you
You know you gotta stand tall
Are you gonna make me move
No
Not at all
Take that bully for a joke
and keep on walking down the hall
Bullying is not cool
Stop bringing it to school
Bullies hide behind a mask but home they really are in fear
Kids take it personal
They hate coming back to school
Families always calling bout the kids that’s breaking all the rules

I know bullying is cruel
Stop thinking it is cool
Taking over people’s minds
but love is all they really need
We want all you kids to know
If this rap applies to you
Learn to study hard and
stop bullying kids in school

Leave that bullying alone
School is not a place for fear
It’s a place for learning books
not knocking kids out their chairs
You may think it’s funny now but
I don’t like that mess at all
I hope that you can really see
that bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me
Take that drama out of school
Bullying is not cool
Bully free starts with me
Bully free starts with me
It’s Aiton, you already know
That we are always bully free

TEAM POEM
AITON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3RD-5TH GRADE, DC SCORES
Who do you call?

Who do you call when the cops are the killers?
So do we depend on the thugs, dope and drug dealers...
Who do you call might I ask?
Who do you call I say...
Or should we take matters into our own hands.
So here we are taking matters into our own hands, but it seems we just get shot at first glance
So I ask again...
Who do you call?

© HEAVEN.B.
BARACK OBAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL, 6TH GRADE, BETTER FAMILY LIFE ST. LOUIS
After the Storm

I wake up in the morning, I look outside and the rain is pouring.
And I know today is going to be boring.
Conforming myself to be someone I’m not.
I thought life was going to be better, but it’s worse than I thought.
Lying to myself, I’m like a closed book on the shelf.
Never read, never opened.

I try to amend my mistakes,
Taking off my mask, and showing my face.
Hiding from the world was my worst omission.
Now I have a new mission,
To make a difference in this world,
With precision.

Then I look out the window, I see sun rays and a rainbow.
Even after the worst storm, there is a rainbow.
Always see the beauty.

Like Oprah said,
“Don’t get confused between what people say you are and who you know you are.”
Follow your heart, not other people’s opinions.
We should respect each other because we are young civilians.

You are beautiful, amazing, and brilliant just the way you are,
So just keep being you!

Graciela S.
LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 6TH GRADE,
DC SCORES

The Amazing You

Come with me and see how amazing you really are
Let’s look at all the things you do
That make a difference
Let’s celebrate your uniqueness
And your kindness
Let’s take a moment to remember
How truly unique your gifts
Are to this world.

Flory C.
LAUREL DELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
5TH GRADE,
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

Perfect

Perfect is me
Perfect is you
No one can change that
No matter what they do

Even when my face is covered in mud
I am still a perfect me
Even when you are bugging me
You are a perfect bud

I am perfect
Me is me
You are perfect
It is just the way it has to be
We will never change
The perfect us!

Vince B.
EDMONDS COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
4TH GRADE,
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER
**Best Part of Me**

The best parts of me are my feet.
They are as beautiful as a red rose.
I use my feet to walk to school and learn.
Learning takes me places that I would’ve never imagined:
the forest, indigenous locations, and even South America!
With my feet, I can hike and can go on adventures.
My feet do amazing things.
Skipping to the park on Ellis Street.
Hopping to my funny uncle’s house.
Jumping on the trampoline, so I can reach the sky.
Jogging to my dad’s store, so I’m never late.
Galloping to school, excited to learn.
Sprinting home so I can watch my favorite show.
I love my feet oh so much.
They shine as bright as a star.
I adore my feet because they are the best.
Without my feet, I can’t discover new things.
Without my feet, where would I be?
I’m glad they’re the best part of me.

**Mohamed A. B.**

REDDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
4TH GRADE,
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

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**Don’t Change on My Account**

If you’re sloppy, that’s just fine.
If you’re moody, I won’t mind.
If you’re fat, that’s fine with me.
If you’re skinny, let it be.
If you’re bossy, that’s alright.
If you’re nasty, I won’t fight.
If you’re rough, well that’s just you.
If you’re mean, that’s alright too.
Whatever you are is all okay.
I love you anyway.
So put on a smile.
Because I’m here for you when you’re down anyhow.

**Elijah H.**

LUCAS CROSSING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
4TH GRADE,
BETTER FAMILY LIFE ST. LOUIS

---

**Untitled**

Don’t try to be like your friends
They won’t teach you right from wrong
Be someone you can depend on
and not just following trends

I come to school to be taught
And to make big dreams
I want to be something that beams
And I need to give everything my best shot.

My mom always taught me to stay true
And to never stray from the route
People thinking they know what I’m about
I know who I am, but do you know you?

I want to be something great
And do great things as I get older
Brushing off the shoulder
When people try to hate

I don’t care what other people say
This is my life not yours
I’m here to kick down doors
While you just want to play

Never getting misled
by people that aren’t worth it
With these people I’m not trying to fit
Cause a winner I was born and bred

**Brooklyn S.**

FULLERTON SCHOOL OF ACADEMICS,
5TH GRADE,
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND
Thank you Hunt4Soccer
With your support, over 13,000 poet-athletes get a free soccer ball each year
www.Hunt4Soccer.com

Thank you to the Embassy of the State of Qatar for supporting America SCORES! See you in 2022!

Volkswagen Group of America continues to be a proud supporter of America SCORES and DC SCORES and recognizes each and every talented participant.

We're a good partner, on the roads and in our community.

volkswagengroupamerica.com

The Power of Children's Poetry

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We're a good partner, on the roads and in our community.

Thank you to the Embassy of the State of Qatar for supporting America SCORES! See you in 2022!
FACTSET IS PROUD TO SUPPORT AMERICA SCORES AND ITS TALENTED POET-ATHLETES!

FACTSET SEE THE ADVANTAGE
Our Schools!

**BAY AREA**
1885 MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Alvarado Elementary School
ASCEND Elementary School
Bret Harte Elementary School
Bret Harte Middle School
Bridges Elementary School
Bryant Elementary School
Chavez Middle School
Cleveland Elementary School
Coleman Elementary School
Davidson Middle School
El Dorado Elementary School
Emmunist Middle School
Encompass Elementary School
ER Taylor Elementary School
Esperanza Elementary School
Everett Middle School
Fynn Elementary School
Francisco Middle School
Garfield Elementary School
George R. Moscone Elementary School
Glassbrook Elementary School
Global Family Elementary School
Greenleaf Elementary School
Guadalupe Elementary School
Harder Elementary School
Hawes Elementary School
Henry Ford Elementary School
Hillcrest Elementary School
Howard Elementary School
Indochinese Housing Development Center
International Community School
John Gill Elementary School
John Muir Elementary School
Junipero Serra Elementary School
Korematu Elementary School
Lakeshore Elementary School
Longwood Elementary School
Manzanita Community School
Manzanita SEED
Marshall Elementary School
Mathson Middle School
McCoppin Elementary School
Mission Education Center
MLK Elementary School
MLK Middle School
Moscone Elementary School
Ocalo Middle School
Ochoa Middle School
Palma Ceia Elementary School
Paul Revere Elementary School
Paul Revere Middle School
Prescott
Reeding Elementary School
Salvation Army KROC Center Tenderloin
San Pedro Elementary School
Sanchez Elementary School
Sankota Elementary School
Selby Lane Elementary School
Short Elementary School
Stonebridge Elementary School
TCEA Elementary School
TCEA Middle School
Tenderloin Community School
Think College Now Elementary School
Up on Top Elementary School
Venetia Valley Elementary School
Visitation Valley Middle School
Winton Middle School
Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

**CHICAGO**
600 W. CERMAK ROAD
SUITE 204
CHICAGO, IL 60616

Catalyst Maria Charter School
Charles Evans Hughes Elementary School
Charles Hammond Elementary School
Lazaro Cardenas Elementary School
Orozo Community Academy
Pilsen Community Academy
Whitter Dual Language School

**BOSTON**
29 GERMANIA STREET
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130

Boston Teachers Union K-8 School
Charles Sumner Elementary School
Clarence R. Edwards Middle School
Curley K-8 School
David A Ellis Elementary School
Dennis Haley K-8 School
Donald McKay K-8 School
Gardner Pilot Academy
Henry Grew Elementary School
Hugh R. O'Donnell Elementary School
Jackson-Mann Elementary School
James P. Timilty Middle School
James W. Hennigan K-8 School
John Eliot K-8 School
John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Joseph Hurley K-8 School
Lilla G. Frederick Middle School
Mario Umana Academy
Matther Elementary School
Orchard Gardens K-8 School
Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School
Rafael Hernandez K-8 School
Thomas A. Edison K-8 School
Washington Irving Middle School
William Blackstone Elementary School
William M. Trotter K-8 School
William Ohrenberger K-8 School
Winslow Boys and Girls Club
Young Achievers Science
& Math K-6 School

**CLEVELAND**
3631 PERKINS AVENUE
UNIT 2CE
CLEVELAND, OH 44114

Artemus Ward School
Buhler Dual Language Academy
Franklin D. Roosevelt Elementary School
Fullerton School of Academics
Mound STEM School
Newton D. Baker School of the Arts
Robinson G Jones School
Thomas Jefferson Newcomers Academy
Wade Park School
Warner Girls Leadership Academy
Willison School

**DC**
1140 CONNECTICUT AVE NW
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

Alton Elementary School
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School
Bancraft Elementary School
Barry Elementary School
Barry Farm Recreation Center
Beers Elementary School
Boone Elementary School
Brightwood Education Campus
Brookland Middle School
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School
Burrville Elementary School
Capital City Public Charter School
Cardozo Education Campus
Cesar Chavez Prep Public Charter Middle School
Drew Elementary School

**LA**
3685 MOTOR AVENUE
SUITE 110
LOS ANGELES, CA 90034

Braddock Drive Elementary School
Charnock Road Elementary School
Palms Elementary School
Palms Middle School
Stoner Avenue Elementary School

**MILWAUKEE**
7101 WEST GOOD HOPE ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53223

ALBA Elementary School
Browning Elementary School
Clarke Street Elementary School
Hayes Bilingual Elementary School
LaFolette Elementary School
Lincoln Avenue Elementary School
Riley Elementary School
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

NEW YORK
520 8TH AVENUE
2ND FLOOR
SUITE 201C
NEW YORK, NY 10018
Dos Puentes Elementary School
Esperanza Preparatory Academy
Hamilton Grange Middle School
High Bridge Middle School
MS 161 Middle School
MS 218 Middle School
MS 324 Middle School
MS 363 Middle School
New Design Middle School
PS 4 Elementary School
PS 98 Elementary School
PS 125 Elementary School
PS 139 Elementary School
PS 153 Elementary School
PS 161 Elementary School
PS 173 Elementary School
PS 192 Elementary School
PS 249 Elementary School
PS 386 Elementary School
The Mott Hall School

SEATTLE
2450 6TH AVENUE SOUTH
SUITE 203
SEATTLE, WA 98134
Bailey Gatzert Elementary School
Dunlap Elementary School
Hawthorne Elementary School
Maple Elementary School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
Roswell Elementary School

ST. LOUIS
5415 PAGE BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112
Barack Obama Elementary School
Dunbar Elementary School
Jefferson Elementary School
Lucas Crossing Elementary School
Northview Elementary School
Walbridge Elementary School
Washington Elementary School

PORTLAND
7931 NE HALSEY
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PORTLAND, OR 97213
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Cherry Park Elementary School
Davis Elementary School
Dexter McCarty Middle School
East Gresham Elementary School
Fairview Elementary School
Glendale Elementary School
Gordon Russell Middle School
Hacienda CDC Community Center
Hall Elementary School
Highland Elementary School
James John Elementary School
Lincoln Park Elementary School
Lot Whitcomb Elementary School
Meadows Elementary School
Menlo Park Elementary School
Mill Park Elementary School
North Gresham Elementary School
Oliver Elementary School
Parklane Elementary School
Peninsula Elementary School
Reynolds Middle School
Russell Elementary School
Sacramento Elementary School
Salish Ponds Elementary School
Sidney Elementary School
West Morey Middle School
West Powellhurst Elementary School
Whitman Elementary School
Wilkes Elementary School

VANCOUVER
3023-3713 KENSINGTON AVE
BURNABY, BC
V5B 0A7, CANADA
Byrne Creek Secondary School
Cedar Hills Elementary School
Douglas Road Elementary School
Edmonds Community Elementary School
Hjorth Road Elementary School
Holly Elementary School
Kimberly Elementary School
Senora Reid Elementary School
Stride Avenue Community Elementary School
Twelfth Avenue Elementary School

AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA
AMERICA SCORES ST. LOUIS
AMERICA SCORES VANCOUVER
POST GAME COOL DOWN

Jersey Dreaming

Below are five blank jerseys. Can you think of 5 team names and design jerseys for their players to wear?

Did your find all the poetry microphones? Want the answer?
# National Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>IPC</td>
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<td>VICE CHAIR</td>
<td>THE BAZELON CENTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miranda Jones</td>
<td></td>
<td>BETTER FAMILY LIFE</td>
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<td>Cy Richardson</td>
<td></td>
<td>NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA</td>
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# Honorary Board

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gale Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Shay</td>
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# National Leadership

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<td>Bethany Rubin Henderson</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
<td>AMERICA SCORES NATIONAL NETWORK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Schneeman</td>
<td>CHAIR</td>
<td>AMERICA SCORES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Hinkle</td>
<td>PROGRAM DIRECTOR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER</td>
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# Affiliate Leadership

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<td>David Chang</td>
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<td>Lorelei Heisler</td>
<td>BOARD CHAIR</td>
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<td>ST. LOUIS</td>
<td>Malik Ahmed</td>
<td>BOARD CHAIR</td>
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<td>Jon Lutz</td>
<td>BOARD CHAIR</td>
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