

Kicker!

2019
Poetry Unites



Original Poetry by the Poet-Athletes of America SCORES





We hid a lot of poetry microphones in this year's Kicker! **How many can you find?**
 ¡Ocultamos muchos lápices de poesía en el Kicker de este año! ¿Cuántos puedes encontrar?

Write how many you found here:

Escribe aquí cuantos 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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Dear America SCORES Poet-Athletes,

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



FOLLOW @DCUNITED TO STAY
UP TO DATE ON BEN AND HIS
TEAM AS THEY TAKE ON
THE 2019 MLS SEASON.



TAKE RISKS &
TRY SOMETHING NEW

**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



**WOW,
NICE MOVES!
THE LINCOLN AVENUE
TEAM SOLD ALMOST
1,000 SNACK ITEMS TO
FEED THE HOMELESS IN
THEIR COMMUNITY!**



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.

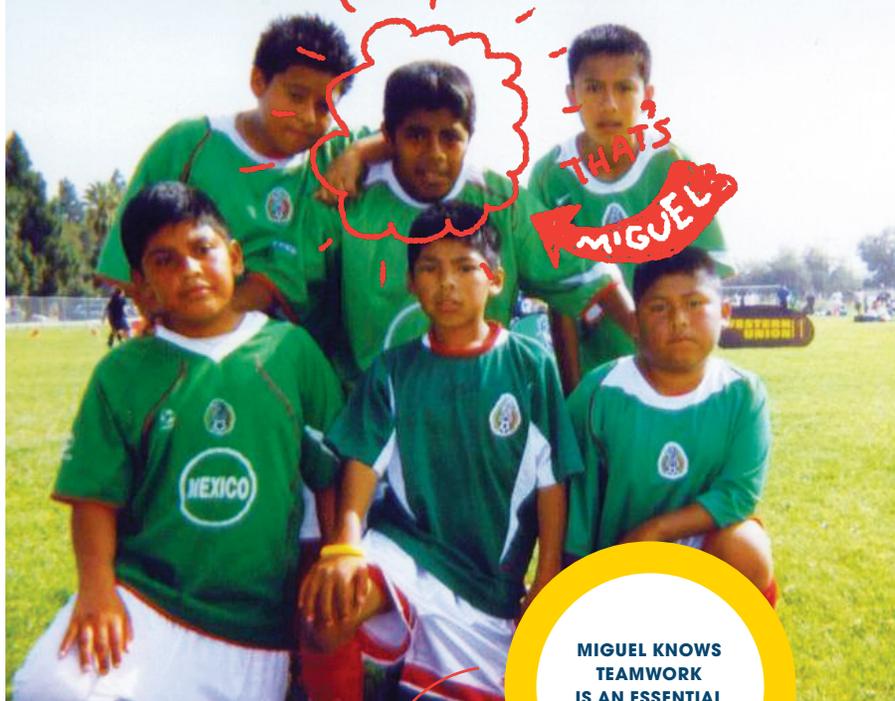
Miguel made sure to give back to the program that gave him the resources to succeed, as a high school volunteer, substitute coach, and, for two years, girls' soccer coach. Now, Miguel is a Site Coordinator at Braddock Drive Elementary. He says, "One of the reasons I continue to come back is because I 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 feel 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. 



MIGUEL KNOWS TEAMWORK IS AN ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR LIFE!



Coach Gagliardi Brings a Love of the Game



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!"

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. 

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,



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!

COOL!
HOW DO YOU
LIVE GREEN?



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.

ALRIGHT!
LOVE YOUR BLOCK;
CLEAN IT UP!

WHO ARE WE?

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 aaaaalllll 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!

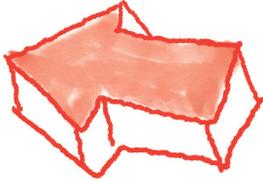
Dont tell me it's harder being an adult! Dont even try it!
You'll say something like "it's tough paying bills..." Nope! I don't buy it!
You try making tough decisions without being asked
Like where to ditch the nasty veggies...with the dog or in the trash?

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 its tough...

Jesus C. & Jaiden R.

PALMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 5TH GRADE
AMERICA SCORES LOS ANGELES



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

Scott Caldwell

Dreams of Soccer

Scott Caldwell is a professional soccer player for the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer, heading into his seventh season with the club. He grew up in the Boston area, started in the New England Revolution Academy, won an NCAA College Cup with the University of Akron, and signed a homegrown deal with the club before being named its Most Valuable Player in 2015. Scott is an energetic supporter of Boston SCORES and America SCORES, and he believes his position as an MLS player empowers him to give back to the community. We caught up with Scott to talk about life as a professional soccer player.



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. It's something that I work really hard at to be able 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.

TRY TO
LEAD by
EXAMPLE

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. **K!**

Photograph by David Silverman



FOLLOW SCOTT AND THE NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION ON THEIR CAMPAIGN DURING THE 2019 MLS SEASON.



CHECK HIM OUT ON TWITTER (@SCALDWELL15) AND INSTAGRAM (@SCOTTCALDWELL6).

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"



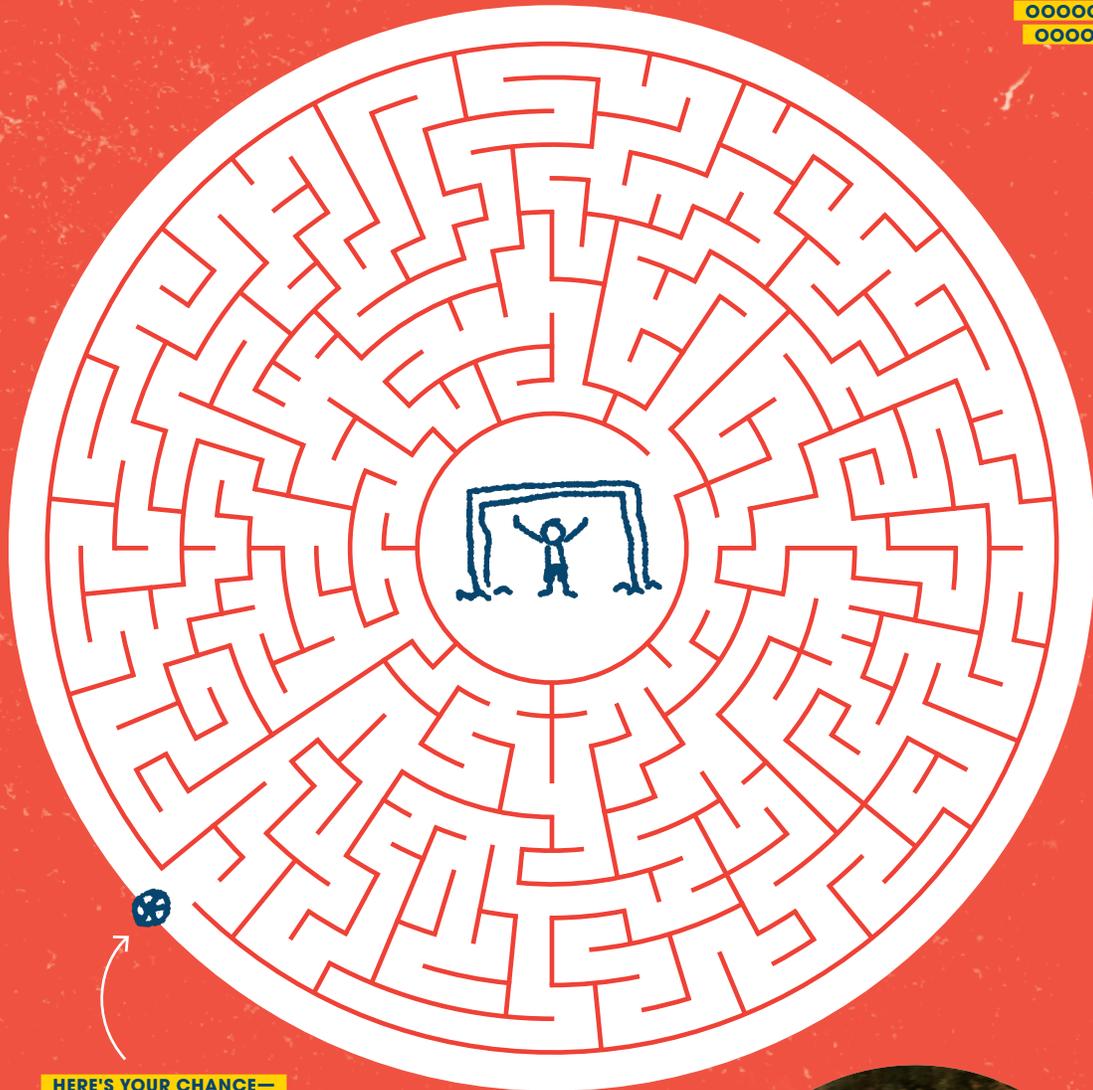


FANCY FOOTWORK

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!

**GOLAZOO-
OOOOOOO-
OOOOOO!!!**



**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE—
GO FOR THE GOAL!**



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



Fresh

POEMS

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



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

Nehemiah T.

BAILEY GATZERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
5TH GRADE,
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE

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.

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!

Mohammed Abdul R.

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

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

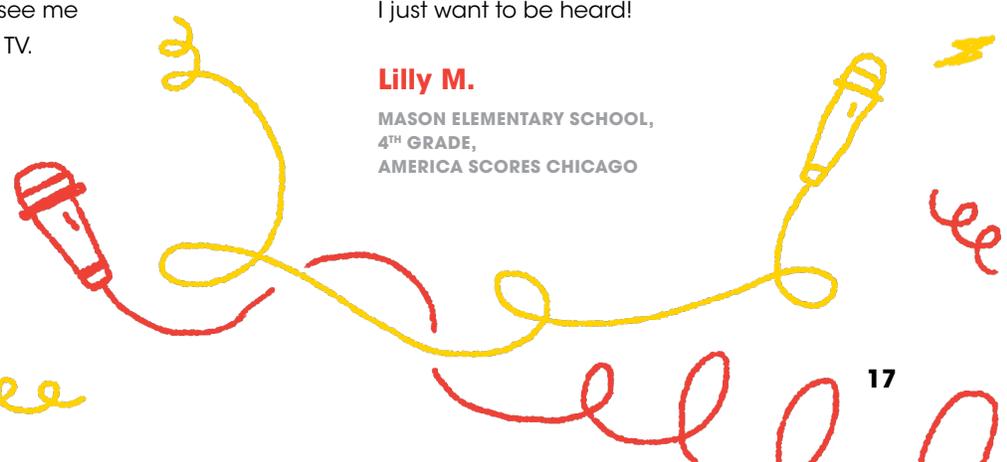
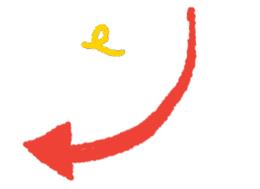
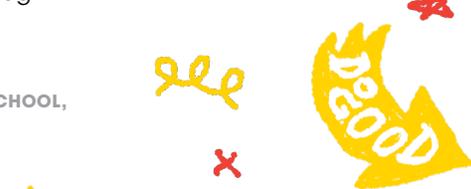
Poetry is my destiny
It's the best thing that has happened to me
But I know performing my words
is how I'll get others to see
All that I can be

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

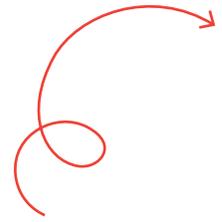
Finally, the stage is all mine
It's my time to shine
I don't just want to be known
as the little girl playing soccer
I want to show people what I can do
I want to be known for my words
I just want to be heard!

Lilly M.

MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
4TH GRADE,
AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO



Black Chakra is Dropping Some Knowledge



**I AM WHO I AM BECAUSE
I WRITE WHAT'S IN ME;
I WRITE NOTHING MORE,
NOTHING LESS.**

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.

MANY PEOPLE GET NERVOUS WHEN THEY ARE ON STAGE; WHAT DO YOU DO TO REMAIN CONFIDENT AND CHARISMATIC IN YOUR DELIVERY?

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.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE AMERICA SCORES POET-ATHLETES

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.

CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE

HEY!
FOLLOW
@BLACKCHAKRASS
ON TWITTER
FOR UPDATES & POETRY



WATCH
BLACK CHAKRA
POWERFULLY
PERFORM HIS POEM
ON YOUTUBE AT
bit.ly/BCPASS

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. 

WE ARE THE FUTURE



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

WHAT WILL YOU
ACCOMPLISH WHEN
YOU GROW UP?

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!

🔗 GIRLS TEAM POEM

FULLERTON SCHOOL OF ACADEMICS,
3RD-5TH GRADE, AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND



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

🔗 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



**YOUR POWER
 COMES FROM WITHIN:
 YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!**

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



BULLY FREE STARTS WITH YOU! STAND TALL AND WALK DOWN THE HALL.

WHO ARE WE?

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.
MADE 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

STRAIGHT LINE

Straight line have a good time.

Sweet as an orange, your grandmother is.

You're always so sour, you're not a lime.

Breathe in the goodness, see the goal, taste the victory, and feel whole.

Relax, everything is okay, it'll be just fine.

Your grandmother is here and she is smart and divine.

You need to focus, you're going on a show. It's not like you're writing a whole portfolio.

Your grandmother has wisdom.

She goes to church every day, all the time.

If you don't believe me I'll give you a dime.

Breathe in and blow, and then just go with the flow and present your poem.

Boom you did it.

Woah.

If you collide your mind with what you find,

then you realize that in order to go forward you just have to go in a straight line.

SONDAI B.

MATHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 5TH GRADE, BOSTON SCORES

YOUR POWER COMES
FROM WITHIN;
YOU CAN DO
ANYTHING!

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



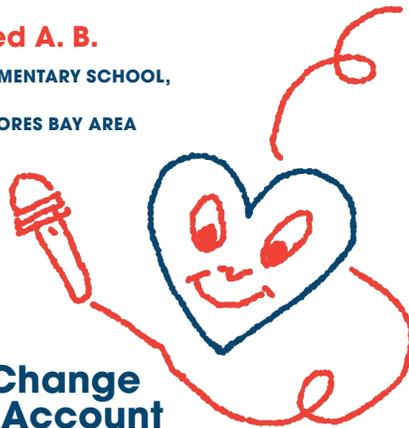
OF A

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.
Gallop 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



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

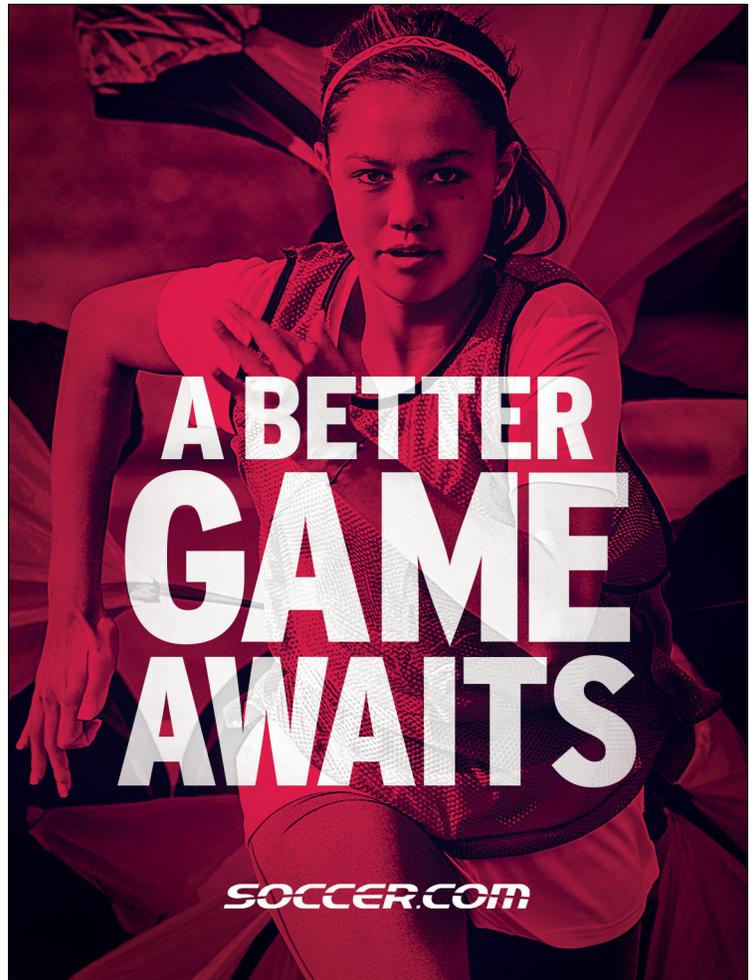




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Qatar

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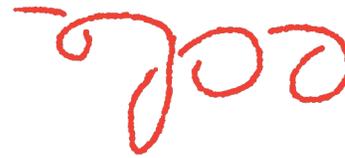


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FACTSET > SEE THE ADVANTAGE



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
 Elmhurst Middle School
 Encompass Elementary School
 ER Taylor Elementary School
 Esperanza Elementary School
 Everett Middle School
 Flynn 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
 Korematsu 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
 Ocala Middle School
 Ochoa Middle School
 Palma Ceia Elementary School
 Paul Revere Elementary School
 Paul Revere Middle School
 Prescott
 Redding Elementary School

Salvation Army KROC Center Tenderloin
 San Pedro Elementary School
 Sanchez Elementary School
 Sankofa Elementary School
 Selby Lane Elementary School
 Short Elementary School
 Stonebridge Elementary School
 TECA Elementary School
 TECA 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

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
 Mather 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
 Yawkey Boys and Girls Club
 Young Achievers Science & Math K-8 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
 Orozco Community Academy
 Pilsen Community Academy
 Whitter Dual Language School

Harrison Recreation Center
 Hart Middle School
 H.D. Cooke Elementary School
 Imagine Hope Community Charter School - Lamond Campus
 Imagine Hope Community Charter School - Tolson Campus
 Kelly Miller Middle School
 Kimball Elementary School
 KIPP DC: AIM Academy
 KIPP DC: KEY Academy
 KIPP DC: QUEST Academy
 KIPP DC: WILL Academy
 J.C. Nalle Elementary School
 Jefferson Middle School
 LaSalle-Backus Education Cmpus
 Leckie Education Campus
 Lincoln Middle School
 MacFarland Middle School
 Marie Reed Elementary School
 Miner Elementary School
 Park View Recreation Center
 Powell Elementary School
 Raymond Education Campus
 Seaton Elementary School
 Smothers Elementary School
 Thomas Elementary School
 Thomson Elementary School
 Truesdell Education Campus
 Tubman Elementary School
 Turkey Thicket Recreation Center
 Turner Elementary School
 Van Ness Elementary School
 Walker-Jones Education Campus
 Washington School for Girls

CLEVELAND

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

Artemus Ward School
 Bruhrer 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
 Willson School

DC

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

Aiton Elementary School
 Amidon-Bowen Elementary School
 Bancroft Elementary School
 Barnard 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
 LaFollette Elementary School



Lincoln Avenue Elementary School
 Riley Elementary School
 Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

NEW YORK

**520 8TH AVENUE
 2ND FLOOR
 SUITE 201 C
 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

PORTLAND

**7931 NE HALSEY
 SUITE 201
 PORTLAND, OR 97213**

Alder Elementary School
 Cherry Park Elementary School
 Davis Elementary School
 Dexter McCarty Middle School
 East Gresham Elementary School
 Fairview Elementary School
 Glenfair 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
 Sifton Elementary School
 Walt Morey Middle School
 West Powellhurst Elementary School
 Whitman Elementary School
 Wilkes Elementary School

SEATTLE

**2450 6TH AVENUE SOUTH
 SUITE 203
 SEATTLE, WA 98134**

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 Dunlap Elementary School
 Hawthorne Elementary School
 Maple Elementary School
 Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Elementary School
 Roxhill Elementary School

ST. LOUIS

**5415 PAGE BOULEVARD
 ST. LOUIS, MO 63112**

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 Dunbar Elementary School
 Jefferson Elementary School
 Lucas Crossing Elementary School
 Northview Elementary School
 Walbridge Elementary School
 Washington Elementary School

VANCOUVER

**3023-3713 KENSINGTON AVE
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 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
 Kirkbride Elementary School
 Senator Reid Elementary School
 Stride Avenue Community
 Elementary School
 Twelfth Avenue Elementary School



AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK



AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE



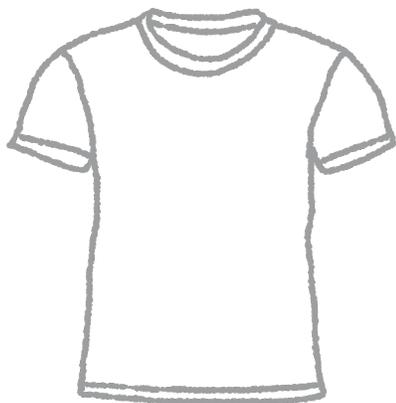
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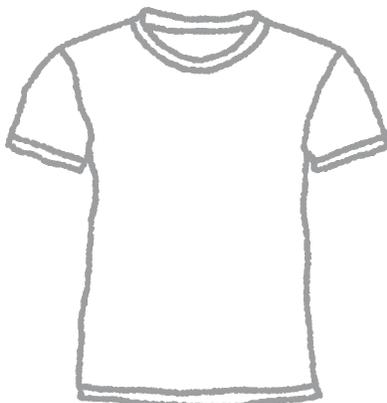


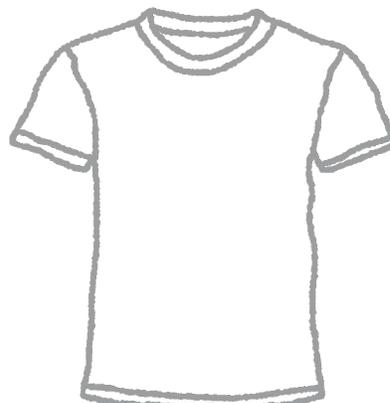
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

Jersey Dreaming

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













Did you find all the poetry microphones?
Want the answer?

There are 10 poetry microphones.

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