

Heart of the Game

FOCUS QUESTION

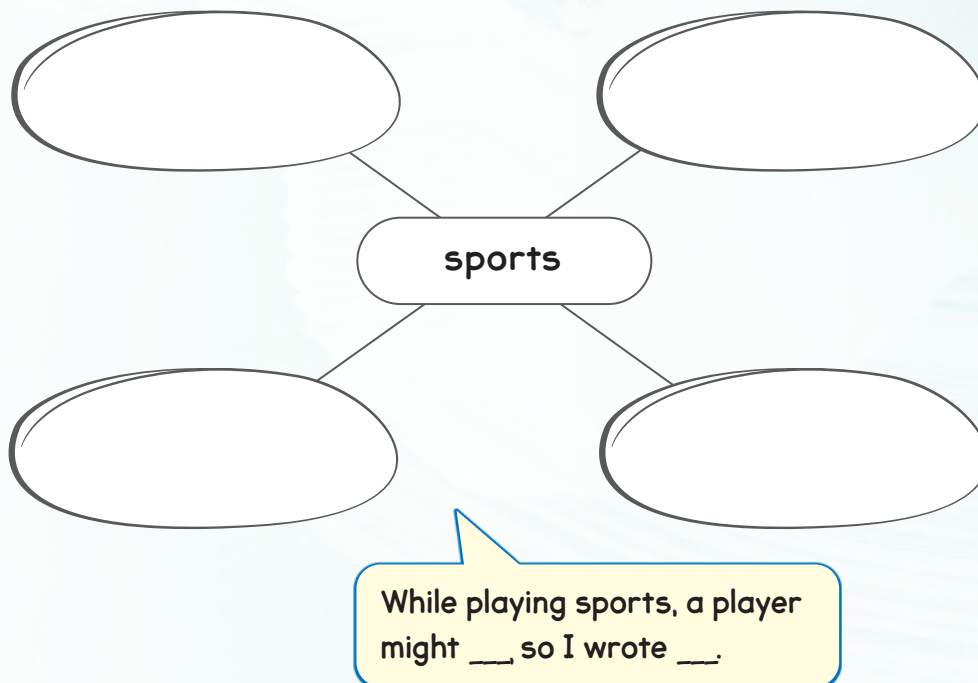
How do sports make us feel?

NOTICE AND WONDER

Look at the titles of the poems you will read in this lesson. What do you notice? What do you wonder? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

WORD WEB

What are some words that describe how playing sports makes people feel? Add these words to the word web below. Then discuss your choices with the people in your group.



The Goal

by Janet Costa Bates



The Game Is Tied from *The Crossover*

by Kwame Alexander



Basketball Rule #2 from *The Crossover*

by Kwame Alexander




Elm Park School, 7:00 A.M. from *Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems*

poem by Christa Champion;
edited by Sue Macy




The Goal


by Janet Costa Bates




1 Turn and glide
Grasp your stick
Guide the puck
To the net real quick
Now shoot



2 Left foot, right foot
Dribble that ball
Down the green field
Give it your all
Now kick




3 Strike one, strike two
Reset your stance
Be cool, be calm
You have another chance
Now swing 


Stop & Discuss

What is the poet describing in each stanza? How do you know?

Point to words and phrases that give you clues. Discuss with a partner.



4 Stand tall, stand proud
This is your art
Run across the mat
Perform with your heart
Now flip

5 No matter your sport
Make it your **quest**
Win or lose
To be your best
Now play! 

quest = a journey to reach
your dreams or goals

Stop & Discuss

What message does the
poet want to share with
the reader?

Talk about the message
with a partner.

The message in the poem is ____.



Analyze Elements of Poetry

- Poems have elements that make them different from other forms of writing, such as stories and plays.
 - A poem's structure is made of lines. Lines grouped together form a **stanza**.
 - A poem may use words that **rhyme** or end in the same sound.
 - Poems may also use **repetition**, or repeating words or sounds.

Reread/Think

Reread "The Goal." Then use the chart below to take notes about the structure, topics, rhyme, and repeating sounds and words you notice.

	Structure and Topic	Rhyme	Repetition
Stanza 1	5 lines, about hockey	stick, quick	• <u>Grasp</u> , <u>Guide</u>
Stanza 2			
Stanza 3			
Stanza 4			
Stanza 5			



The Game Is Tied

from *The Crossover*
by Kwame Alexander

When JB's soft jumper sails

TICK

Through the **air**.

TOCK

The crowd stills,

TICK

Mouths **drop**,

TOCK


And when his last-second shot

TICK

Hits **net**,

TOCK

The clock stops.

The gym explodes. 

Stop & Discuss

What happens in the poem?

Support your response with details from the text.

BASKETBALL RULE #2

(Random text from Dad)

from *The Crossover*
by Kwame Alexander

Hustle dig
Grind push
Run fast
Change pivot
Chase pull
Aim shoot
Work smart
Live smarter
Play hard
Practice harder

Stop & Discuss

What is the message of this poem?

Share your ideas with a partner.



Analyze Elements of Poetry

- Poems have **rhythm**, or a beat that makes them sound like music. The way the words in a poem look can help create rhythm. So can patterns in syllables or words.
- The use of rhyme, repeating sounds and words, and rhythm can help you better understand the ideas in the poem.

Reread/Think

Reread “The Game Is Tied” and “Basketball Rule #2.” Then use the chart below to record information about the repeating words, rhyming sounds and words, and features that create rhythm in both poems.

Poem	Repetition	Rhyme	Rhythm
The Game Is Tied	tick tock	sails, air _ _	Repetition of tick and tock creates a beat.
Basketball Rule #2			



Talk

What elements of poetry did you notice in "The Game Is Tied" and "Basketball Rule #2"?

I notice the rhyming words
___ and ___ in ___.

I notice the repeated sounds/
words ___ in ___.

To create rhythm in ____
the poet ____.

Write

Write a review of either “The Game Is Tied” or “Basketball Rule #2.” Describe how the poem uses structure, rhyme, rhythm, and repetition. Explain what these poetry elements help you understand. Then tell what you like about the poem.

[illegible]

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I explained how the poem is structured.
- ☐ I described poetry elements such as rhyme, repetition, and rhythm.
- ☐ I explained what the poetry elements help me understand about the poem.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.



Elm Park School, 7:00 A.M.

from *Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems*

poem by Christa Champion;
edited by Sue Macy

1 better than gym class
better than recess
better than pizza for lunch—

2 not even ice cream
with fudge sauce
can top it—

3 nothing is sweeter
and no one
can stop it—

4 whenever I want
I can just stop
and pop it—





5 it's fresh
and it's smooth
on the playground it rules—

6 it just doesn't get
any better
than this—

7 my jump shot
as it drops
through the net
with a swish.



Respond to Text

Reread/Think

Reread “Elm Park School, 7:00 A.M.” Choose the best response to each question.

1. What does the repetition of the phrase *better than* in the first three lines add to the poem?
 - A. It creates an image of the subject of the poem.
 - B. It gives the name of the speaker’s favorite thing.
 - C. It tells where the events of the poem take place.
 - D. It shows how much the speaker likes something.
2. How are stanzas 2–4 connected to one another?
 - A. They all talk about recess games.
 - B. They all begin with the same word.
 - C. They all end with a phrase that rhymes.
 - D. They all describe a favorite dessert.
3. Read these lines from stanza 5 of the poem.

it’s fresh

and it’s smooth

on the playground it **rules**—

In which sentence is the word *rules* used the same way as in stanza 5?

- A. One of the **rules** at my school is “no running in the halls.”
- B. My dad’s cake recipe **rules** because it is extra chocolatey.
- C. The queen **rules** over the people who live in her kingdom.
- D. The mistake I made today **rules** out my chance of winning.



Reread/Think

4. How is stanza 7 different from the other stanzas in the poem?
- A. It is the only stanza with four lines.
 - B. It is the only stanza that has rhythm.
 - C. It uses more rhyming words than the other stanzas.
 - D. It uses more repeating sounds than the other stanzas.

Write

Describe the poetry elements used in “Elm Park School, 7:00 A.M.,” including structure, rhyme, repeating sounds and words, and features that create rhythm.

and rhythm.

- ☐ I included examples from the poem.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation and capitalization.

WRITING CHECKLIST

- ☐ I explained how the poet used structure, rhyme, repetition, and rhythm.
- ☐ I included examples from the poem.
- ☐ I used correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.



Respond to the Focus Question

How do sports make us feel?

Reread/Think

Choose one poem from this lesson to reread.

POEM: _____

What message do you think the poem has about sports? How does the poem convey this message?

Talk

Discuss your poem with two students who chose different poems than you. Explain the message of the poem you selected. Listen as they describe the message of theirs.

The message of ____ is ____.

The poet shares this message by ____.

Name:	Name:

Write

Write a poem about your favorite sport or another activity you enjoy. In your poem, describe what you do and the feeling you get from the activity. Try to use elements of poetry such as rhyme, rhythm, and repeating sounds and words.