

Poetry Is Sporty

Change-Up: Baseball Poems is a poetry collection that leads readers through an entire baseball season from start to finish. Each poem provides a look at baseball from a different perspective. Sometimes the poems are about the equipment needed to play, and other times the poems are about the people who are playing. In the end, Gene Fehler and Donald Wu have created an entire book about baseball just by bringing together several different poems.

Now it's your turn to write your own book of sports poetry! It's as easy as swinging a bat, jumping into the pool, or doing a somersault. On your mark, get set, GO!

Here's how:

RULE #1: Pick a sport that you enjoy and want to write about.

RULE #2: Put on your thinking hat or thinking helmet or thinking goggles.

RULE #3: Think about every aspect of the sport you've selected. Write down each topic you can think of. (For example, if your sport is swimming, your list may look like this: bathing suit, goggles, diving in, butterfly stroke, big pool, winning the race, cold water, Michael Phelps.)

RULE #4: Write a poem about each of the topics you listed. Feeling stuck? Use the poem titles below to help get you started:

- Before the Season Starts
- Location, Location, Location
- Necessary Equipment
- Playing Sports in My Sleep
- Practice Makes Perfect
- My Best Game Yet
- My Favorite Folks Who Play with Me
- The Star Athlete

RULE #5: Draw a picture to illustrate each poem.

RULE #6: Create a cover for your poetry collection. Be sure to list your name as author and illustrator.

RULE #7: Assemble your poems and illustrations into a book.

CONGRATULATIONS! You have hit a home run! You have scored a touchdown! You have won the gold medal! You have written a book of poetry!



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