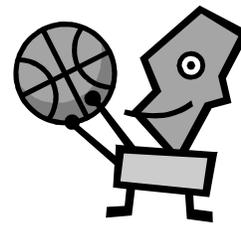


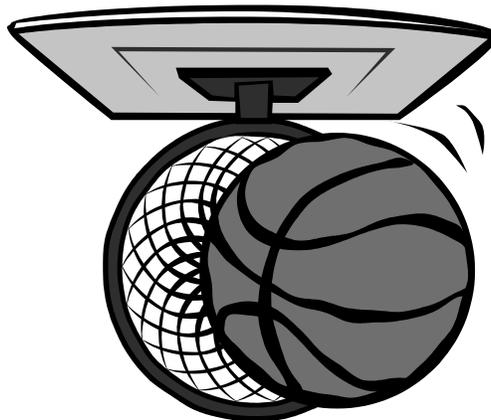


## Foul Shot



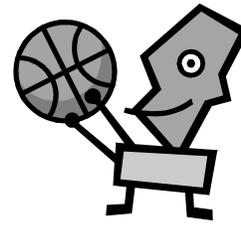
Each group will be assigned a different poetic device. You'll have 5 minutes to do the activity. Then, we will share and discuss. You will be responsible for all the information, so listen carefully as everyone shares and write down their answers as well.

1. Find examples of metaphor and sensory language in this poem. How do they help the poem?
2. Explain how line length contributes to this poem and point out specific examples. (Hint: Use the handout, How can I make poetry more poetic?)
3. Explain how word choice impacts the reader in this point and give specific examples that back up your explanation.
4. Explain how word choice contributes to the mood or meaning of the poem and give examples.
5. Find examples of sensory language. How do they help the poem?
6. Find examples of rhythm. How do they contribute to the poem?





## Foul Shot Answer Key



1. Find examples of metaphor in this poem. How do they help the poem?  
"Squeezed by silence," "Calms it with fingertips," "Plays it coy." They help the reader feel what the foul shooter is going through. (Accept all reasonable answers.)
2. Explain how line length contributes to this poem and point out specific examples.  
Line length is used in this poem to emphasize the wait the foul shooter and the audience are feeling. When the writer puts "Breathes," "Crouches," and "Waits" on single lines, then we truly get a feeling for the moment right before the shooter shoots the ball. (Accept all reasonable answers.)
3. Explain how word choice impacts the reader in this point and give specific examples that back up your explanation. Word choice in this poem is designed to impact the reader by making the reader see and feel the moment of a foul shot. When the writer says things like "seeks out the line with his feet" and "soothes his hands along his uniform," the words emphasize the slowness of the moment. (Accept all reasonable answers.)
4. Explain how word choice contributes to the mood or meaning of the poem and give examples. Word choice in this poem is designed to contribute to the mood by emphasizing the slow quality of the moment. When the writer says, "gently drums the ball against the floor" and "calms it with fingertips," the reader feels the slow motion that the foul shooter is going through. (Accept all reasonable answers.)
5. Find examples of sensory language. How do they help the poem?  
Sensory language in this poem is used to help the reader SEE the foul shooter take his time with the shot and also help the reader feel that gut wrenching moment before the ball drops into the hoop. With words like, "squeezed by silence," "soothes his hands along his uniform," and "hesitates, exasperates, plays it coy," the reader not only feels the pressure a foul shooter is under, but also has a mental image of the ball swirling around the hoop before finally dropping in. (Accept all reasonable answers.)
6. Find examples of rhythm. How do they contribute to the poem or how are they used in the poem?  
Rhythm is used in the poem to emphasize the ball gently being dribbled on the floor, the foul shooter slowly taking the shot and the ball swirling around the hoop before dropping in. Examples would be found in the first stanza when the longer sentences and words emphasize the time the shooter is taking with the foul shot. Examples in the second stanza would be of the shorter words and phrases and the staggering quality of "and then," to indicate the time the ball is taking before dropping through the hoop.



## A Moment In Time



Think about how the poems "Foul Shot" and "The Base Stealer" were really poems about a moment in time. These short, but powerful moments created forceful poems.

Now, think about a moment in time. You may want to use some of the ideas here or write your own in the spaces provided:

Diving off a diving board

Sprinting down a runway

Serving a tennis ball

Catching a pop fly

Making a big decision

Eating a favorite food

---

---

---

Next, decide on one that you would like to use for this activity. What kind of words would you use to describe this moment in time?

---

---

---

Finally, think of any similes or metaphors or sensory language you could use to create meaning in the mind of the reader. Even if you can't think of the simile or metaphor, at least give an idea of what you would like to say. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Recap for the lesson**  
**A Moment In Time**

1. How can punctuation, line length or rhythm contribute to the effect of a poem?
2. How can word choice impact a reader?
3. How can word choice create mood or meaning?
4. Is there a poem we've studied so far that was really powerful, funny, interesting to you? Why?