Standing at the Foul Line

There are only 55 seconds left on the scoreboard
And the game is tied.
I concentrate and try to clear my mind,
But I am worried I might miss.

I dribble the ball
Taking time to breathe and relax
I arch my hands and lift the ball
Sinking the first shot swish right through the net.

I have one more shot to go,
Can I make it a two-point game?
I lean forward and repeat the same steps
And then,
I make it once again.

Who will win the game now?

By Kim Yaccarino

1. Why is the narrator worried in the first stanza of the poem?
   A. The player is tired after the long game.
   B. The game is tied and she is worried she might miss.
   C. The other team is going to win.
   D. The player knows she can’t shoot the ball well.

2. The word *concentrate*, as it is used in this poem, means
   A. Think about what happened during the day.
   B. Watch what the other players are doing.
   C. Listen to what the players are saying.
   D. Focus on what you are doing.
3. What is the main idea of this poem?
   A. This player must make her shots in order to win.
   B. Working as a team is important.
   C. Team sports are a good after-school activity.
   D. This player believes that the other team is going to win.

4. What game is the narrator playing?
   A. Hockey.
   B. Soccer.
   C. Basketball.
   D. Baseball.

5. Which of the following is a fact not an opinion?
   A. Basketball is a fun game.
   B. Foul shots are hard to make.
   C. The narrator’s team will win the game.
   D. The narrator is worried that she might miss the shot.

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn’t Like It At All 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 I Really Liked It

Imagery & Prediction: Write your own ending to the poem. How do you think the game ended? Draw a picture that shows what your ending might look like.