

## 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.

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Confident Confident

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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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
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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.