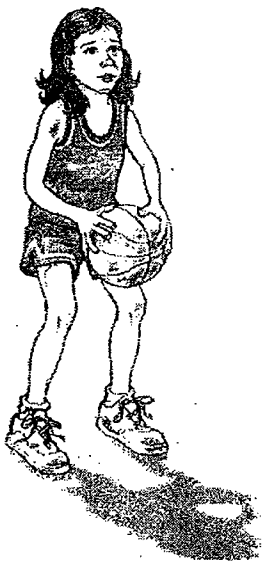


Directions

Read this story, which was written by a sixth-grade student. Then do Numbers 33 through 41. You may look back at the story as often as you like.



Basketball Free Throw

by Inci Atrek

Taking the basketball from the referee in my raw, steamy hands, I felt the gym getting chillier when I stood still. This was the very first time so many people were depending on me—I wasn't used to it. My face, blood-red after running and jumping for an exceptionally long time, had broken out into a cold sweat, as had the rest of my body. Funny, I had been scorching hot a few seconds before. With veins throbbing violently in my throat, my eyes darted down to the flaming orange ball that I held in my shaky hands. I wanted it to stay there perpetually, never to leave and try its luck making it into the hoop. I had never really paid attention to all the billions of tiny little bumps which coated it. Today, they were starting to make me feel especially dizzy.

It seemed like an eternity for everyone to get lined up, but at last, they did. Anxiously, my gaze lifted up toward my teammates' faces. Unmistakably written all over was a mixture of hope and belief. I was hypnotized by their eyes, waiting eagerly for the moment that

would come soon. Too soon, if you ask me. I wasn't sure I was ready. It was only one shot and no more—no second chance. I gulped as these thoughts rushed through my head like an express train, one after another, moving so rapidly they seemed like a blur. My coach's eyes were fixed on me, like a hawk watching its prey's each and every move. Her clipboard in hand and whistle around her strong neck, she didn't seem to be distracted by anything, as if in a trance. She bit her lip and appeared to be waiting with hopes rising in her heart.

Instantly, all the moisture drained away from my throat as I caught a glimpse of my opponent, the girl who had been watching me all throughout the game like a bloodthirsty wolf. As hard as I tried, I could not tear my eyes away from her. Even though she wore a blinding white shirt like the others on her team, she stood out—at least to me. Her vicious sapphire eyes had sparks of ice dancing in them and were as frosty as the expression on her face. A chill slithered over me, raising goosebumps on my legs and arms, and I shivered as I tried to gain control of my body again.

The soft, whispery voices of the crowd above were echoing through my head. I began to feel dazed, and felt like pinching myself with my clammy hands to make sure that this wasn't a dream. No, a feeling making me this

apprehensive could only come in real life. The basketball now seemed ponderous¹ in my weak hands, so I gripped it firmer to make sure it wouldn't fall and cause a scene.

At last, I knew the time was right. I couldn't stall any longer, no matter how much I wished to. This one shot was worth a thousand words to me . . . How much I always wanted to be the one actually helping my team, not just running around trying to catch the rebounds, which I never really succeeded in. Always, a longer arm would shoot up in front of me and grab it for her own. But now it was my turn. I felt the power that the others had, but not the courage.

I gripped the glowing ball harder and let it go, waiting for it to hit the ground and bounce. BOOM!!! It made such a noise, it seemed as if

¹ponderous: heavy

the world had awakened from the dead. I did it once more, and got into the shooting position, trying not to tremble.

Suddenly, I realized something. The basket seemed smaller, farther away. My arms seemed to weaken, giving up on me. I wasn't sure I could throw the ball that far. I began to wonder how all the other players had made it. What was the difference between them and me? They were all brave enough to at least try, my mind said, and if they were, so are you. I had to agree. After our team had come this far, the least I could do was attempt to win us this game. I did my best to balance myself on my insecure knees and jump, throwing the glistening orange ball with all my might as far and as high as I could manage . . .

37 Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

SESSION 4 Reading
BASKETBALL FREE THROW
Item 37 (Page 31)

Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

Exemplary Response

Any four of the following events in this order:

1. Narrator/she takes the ball from the referee.
2. Everyone lines up.
3. Narrator sees the coach watching (gets nervous, etc.).
4. Narrator sees her opponent watching (gets nervous, etc.).
5. Narrator hears the crowd whispering.
6. Narrator bounces the ball twice.
7. Narrator jumps and throws the ball.

Other relevant, text-based event, in order

Score Points

- 3 points** Response includes four events from the list, in order.
2 points Response includes three events from the list, in order.
1 point Response includes two events from the list, in order.
0 points other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 6

Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.

Benchmark 1.e: Identify sequential order in fiction and nonfiction

Subcontent Area: nonfiction

3 POINT ANCHOR

Reading Grade 6

Item 37

Response includes four events in order

Response 1 - Exemplar 1

Response 2 - Exemplar 2

Response 3 - Exemplar 6

Response 4 - Exemplar 7

3pt
UB
Anchor
4-11-07

37

Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

- 1) She took took the ball from the referee.
- 2) Everyone got lined up for her shot.
- 3) She bounced the ball and got in her shooting stance.
- 4) She shot the ball.

2 POINT ANCHOR

Reading Grade 3

Item 37

Response includes three events in order

Response 1 - No credit; too general

Response 2 - Exemplar 4

Response 3 - Exemplar 6

Response 4 - Exemplar 7

anchor
VB
2 pt
4.11.07

37

Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

- 1) First, the girl needed to make a shot with the basketball, but she too nervous
- 2) Then, she couldn't move because of the girl that was looking at her viciously
- 3) Then, she bounced the ball and now had less confidence.
- 4) Lastly, the girl had confidence in herself and decided to let go of the ball and shoot it.

1 POINT ANCHOR

Reading Grade 6

Item 37

Response includes two events in order

Response 1 - Exemplar 1

Response 2 - Exemplar 2

Response 3 - No credit; vague and out of sequence

Response 4 - No credit; vague

1 pt
VB
anchor
4.11.07

37

Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

- 1) Takes basketball from referee
- 2) feels like an eternity for everyone to line up
- 3) She gets a free throw
- 4) hard to concentrate on the freethrow

0 POINT ANCHOR
Reading Grade 6
Item 37
Insufficient response

Opt
VB
anchor
4-11-07

37

Describe four important events from the story in the order they happened.

- 1) she shoot the ball in the hoop a lot
- 2) she can't make a hoop
- 3) she want the ball to fall
- 4) she want the ball to hit the ground and go boom.

38

At the end of the story, the author does not reveal whether the narrator makes the free throw. Is this an effective way to end the story? Explain **why** or **why not**. Use details from the story to support your answer.

SESSION 4 Reading
BASKETBALL FREE THROW
Item 38 (Page 32)

At the end of the story, the author does not reveal whether the narrator makes the free throw. Is this an effective way to end the story? Explain **why** or **why not**. Use details from the story to support your answer.

Exemplary Responses

- I think it was a good way to end the story. The story was really about how the narrator felt up until that moment—her nervousness, the team and her coach watching her, and her opponent staring at her waiting for her to miss the shot. Whether she made the shot or not was unimportant.
- I do not think it was a good way to end the story. After describing everything the narrator goes through, thinking about the moment leading up to the shot, the author leaves us not even knowing if the shot was a success. The narrator says that she wanted to be the one to help the team, and we still don't know if she did.

Score Points

- 2 points** Response includes an opinion and a text-based supporting detail.
1 point Response includes only that it was or was not a good way to end the story, but no supporting detail.
0 points Other

This item appeared at only one grade level.

Grade 6

Standard 6: Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.
Benchmark 6.b: Identify characters, setting, problem/conflict, action/plot/events, resolution/solution, theme, and sequence in literature.
Subcontent Area: nonfiction

38

At the end of the story, the author does not reveal whether the narrator makes the free throw. Is this an effective way to end the story? On the lines below, explain why or why not, using details from the story to support your answer.

Yes this is an effective way to end the story because it keeps the reader hooked on the story & it keeps the reader in a state of wonder "I did my best to balance myself on my insecure knees and jump, throwing the glistening orange ball with all my might as far and as high as I could manage..."

2 Point Anchor

Larawan Barty

38

At the end of the story, the author does not reveal whether the narrator makes the free throw. Is this an effective way to end the story? On the lines below, explain why or why not, using details from the story to support your answer.

no because it isn't

1 Point Anchor

LaDawn Barty

38

At the end of the story, the author does not reveal whether the narrator makes the free throw. Is this an effective way to end the story? On the lines below, explain why or why not, using details from the story to support your answer.

every basket ball game have to have
a free throw

0 Point Anchor