

We hid a lot of poetry pencils in this year's Kicker!
How many can you find?

¡Ocultamos muchos lápices de poesía en el Kicker de este año!
¿Cuántos puedes encontrar?

Write how many you found here:

Escribe aquí cuantos encontraste:

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BONUS

How many words can you think of that rhyme with "team?"
We did one for you.
¿Cuántas palabras puedes pensar de esa rima con "team"?
Hicimos una para ti.

steam _____

Dear America SCORES Poet-Athletes,



**FOLLOW SEBASTIAN
ON INSTAGRAM (@SEBISALAZAR)
AND TWITTER (@SEBISALAZARFUT)
TO STAY UP TO DATE
ON ALL THINGS SOCCER!**

Oct. 10, 2017—Couva, Trinidad

The scenes are hard to forget.

Soggy uniforms hung from the American players, their once-crisp all-white look overrun by grass stains, sweat and defeat. The U.S. men's soccer team had just lost to Trinidad, and in the process been eliminated from participating in the 2018 World Cup. From a remote, nondescript stadium a few miles off the coast of South America, our country had just learned it would miss out on the world's biggest event—sporting or otherwise—for the first time since the 1980's.

For many soccer fans in this country, that was the enduring image of 2017.

I was in Trinidad on that now-infamous night, but for me, the enduring image of 2017 took place much earlier in the year on a small patch of grass in southeast Washington, D.C.

There, on a sun-soaked day in the nation's capital, the Payne Elementary School Wildcats of DC SCORES celebrated raucously on their home field. They danced in circles, soaked their coaches in water and broke into spirited chants. Toward the end of their season, the Wildcats may have been celebrating a win (or not), but they were definitely celebrating a community.

It's a community where our poet-athletes dare to verbalize their hopes and ambitions through poetry. A place where social skills are developed through teamwork, and where the value of selflessness is on full display as our poet-athletes give back with their service-learning projects.

It's a community we're all fortunate—and I hope proud—to be a part of.

To more community and connected passes in 2018,

Sebastian Salazar

ESPN Soccer Host/Reporter

Former Volunteer Coach

DC SCORES (Payne Elementary)

10 de octubre de 2017—Couva, Trinidad

Las escenas no se pueden olvidar.

Uniformes empapados de sudor colgaban de los cuerpos de los jugadores estadounidenses, los colores prístinos del uniforme relegados por las manchas de hierba y la derrota. El equipo masculino de fútbol de Estados Unidos acababa de perder ante Trinidad, quedando eliminados de la Copa Mundial 2018. Desde una isla en el Caribe, y un estadio remoto la afición de los Estados Unidos se estaba enterando de que se iba perder el mayor evento del mundo, deportivo o no, por primera vez desde 1986.

Para muchos aficionados del fútbol en este país, esa fue la imagen perdurable de 2017.

Estuve en Trinidad en esa noche ahora infame, pero para mí, la imagen duradera de 2017 tuvo lugar en Mayo en una pequeña porción de césped en el sureste de Washington, D.C.

Allí, en un día soleado, los Wildcats de la Escuela Primaria Payne celebraron ruidosamente en su cancha. Bailaron, rociaron agua encima de sus entrenadores y cantaron canciones felices. Quizás estaban celebrando una victoria, o quizás no—pero lo que definitivamente si estaban celebrando era una comunidad.

Es una comunidad donde nuestros poeta-atletas se atreven a verbalizar sus esperanzas y ambiciones a través de la poesía. Un lugar donde las habilidades sociales se desarrollan a través del trabajo en equipo y donde el valor del altruismo está en plena exhibición gracias a nuestros poeta-atletas y sus proyectos de servicio.

Es una comunidad fuerte, linda y con mucho futuro. Y todos, poeta-atletas/padres/familiares/amigos/maestros/entrenadores somos parte de esta comunidad.

Sebastian Salazar

Locutor / Reportero de ESPN y ESPN Deportes

Entrenador voluntario

DC SCORES (Primaria Payne)

**America SCORES
inspires urban youth
to lead healthy lives,
be engaged students,
and have the confidence
and character to make
a difference in the world.**

A national nonprofit, America SCORES engages low-income urban youth with innovative after-school and summer programming that builds teams through a unique combination of soccer, poetry, and service learning.

Our holistic, team-based approach works: 88% of students report higher self-confidence, saying that "America SCORES makes me feel good about myself." Teachers also say that students show greater class participation and, in turn, achieve higher academic performance. Not only that, but students increase their physical fitness levels. America SCORES aims to further inspire these poet-athletes to have a greater sense of confidence to make a difference in the world.





2018
Spotlight!



**SHINING A LIGHT ON THE POET-ATHLETES,
COACHES, AND TEAMS WHO
MAKE AMERICA SCORES GREAT**

Dunlap Dolphins are Stronger Together

"WE CHEER ON OUR TEAMMATES AND PICK THEM UP WHEN THEY FALL. WE HELP EACH OTHER AND SHARE OUR KINDNESS."



**WOW!
DUNLAP ELEMENTARY
HAS BEEN A SCORES
SCHOOL FOR OVER
A DECADE!!!**

For over a decade Dunlap Elementary is a powerful SCORES example of the kind of community SCORES aims to build—one that embodies the idea that “we are stronger together.”

► WHEN WRITING ABOUT SCORES DURING OUR SUMMER PROGRAM, ANGEL, A THIRD GRADER FROM THE BOYS TEAM AT DUNLAP, SAYS, “WE CHEER ON OUR TEAMMATES AND PICK THEM UP WHEN THEY FALL. WE HELP EACH OTHER AND SHARE OUR KINDNESS.”

Angel’s younger brother, Jorge, participates in Junior SCORES during the winter but can almost always be found at SCORES Core practice and game days, watching and cheering for Angel. Being “stronger together” means more than simply working with your peers at Dunlap – it’s welcoming and supporting the next generation of SCORES poet-athletes.

As the Dunlap boys took the stage at this year’s Poetry Slam, the girls team had their fingers crossed for them while getting ready to perform themselves. Their collective celebration after learning that they would be taking home the “Most Creative Poem” and “Most Powerful Poem” awards couldn’t have been a better visual depiction of team spirit.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...)

Long time site coordinator and soccer coach at Dunlap, Molly, shares: "Being a part of a team makes kids feel important and special. Our kids need that. All kids need that. I have seen it empower, nurture, motivate and change students' lives." SCORES is an opportunity to belong to something bigger, empowering Dunlap's poet-athletes to build strong connections to both their teammates and coaches while becoming leaders in the larger school community.

Mr. C, veteran poetry coach, had this to say about his SCORES team at Dunlap: "I feel so blessed and honored to be a part of the SCORES program, but I am even more honored to be a part of these young ladies' lives and watching them grow as wonderful people and poets in our society." **KI**

Being a part of a team makes kids feel important and special. All kids need that.



COACH  **AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK**

Coach Boyle Aims to Inspire

THE 'GEM STARS' AND 'NITROS' OF PS 98 PROUDLY WEAR THEIR PURPLE SCORES JERSEYS

Coach Kristin Boyle has been a trailblazer for America SCORES New York for almost five years. She was originally introduced to the program during her first year of teaching at PS 325 and working with a New York City Public School.

Eager to become more involved in her new school, Boyle started as the girls poetry coach in fall 2014 and continued coaching through the following spring season. Coach Boyle observed the positive difference and impact that the SCORES program made in the lives of the students at her school and she believes now that SCORES helped contribute to her successful first year teaching in New York City Public Schools.

"I was able to experience the excitement and dedication of the team members as they performed their poems in the Poetry Slam and read their poems aloud to the elderly in the nursing home as part of their community service project," she recalls. "The teamwork and leadership skills that many students

developed after practicing and participating in soccer games are qualities that all children will obtain after participating in the SCORES program."

When Boyle relocated to the Inwood school, PS 98, ahead of fall 2015, she quickly realized the impact that SCORES could have there. Throughout the school year, she remained in touch with the ASNY staff and programming began during the 2016-2017 school year.

Coach Boyle's dedication does not go unnoticed by her students, whose enthusiasm reflects their coach's approachable character. On game days, the "Gem Stars" and "Nitros" of PS 98 proudly wear their purple SCORES jerseys, high-fiving and singing throughout the hallways.

Playing soccer throughout her life has provided Coach Boyle with the wisdom and sportsmanship that can only be achieved from playing a sport, and she is eager to continue passing those experiences down to her students. **KI**

SCORES Star on the National Stage

"Me"

Today I feel like a balloon
going free
That when I'm blind,
I can actually see
I'm a diamond so shiny,
so bright
that I'm like the sun
showing all the light.
Today I'm a free land
So free,
that I'm a new brand
I feel like a bank
with money
So rich,
that I'm as sweet as honey!!!
I feel like going round
and around
that I'm never going down
I feel like a bird
making sweet sounds
That if I get lost,
I will for sure be found.
When I'm happy
I'm a perfect circle
That never have gaps!
I am perfect,
Just the way I am.

Bridgette Marin

AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

She's just 14 and in 8th grade, but Bridgette Marin has already jumped into the big leagues. Her clear-eyed focus and adept soccer skills caught the eyes of scouts, who selected her for the U14 US National Soccer Team. Bridgette began her soccer career with America SCORES in the 1st grade at E.R. Taylor Elementary School, one of the largest and most ethnically diverse public schools in San Francisco.

At E.R. Taylor, Bridgette was guided by coach Manny, just as her older sister was and her younger sisters will be. It was clear how quickly Bridgette was picking up both soccer and poetry skills and how she was developing her own distinctive voice through the SCORES poetry program. "This girl will go to high places both in soccer and in life," Manny says. "She is humble, agile, smart, and always has a huge smile. It was a true privilege to have been her coach."

The second of four sisters, Bridgette comes from a deeply committed soccer family. Her older sister Nazta also played for America SCORES at E.R. Taylor and is now bound for UC Riverside on a full scholarship. Bridgette's two younger sisters are in 5th and 1st grade at E.R. Taylor and are following their older sisters' lead. Their father, Nelson, provides his daughters deep support and guidance. "Limits are only in your head," he tells them. Early on, Nelson coached his girls and later helped them navigate the Bay Area soccer club maze. Bridgette now plays for the PSV Union Club in Palo Alto. The family continues to live in San Francisco but increasingly travels for games and tournaments. 



**THIS GIRL WILL GO
TO HIGH PLACES BOTH IN
SOCCER AND IN LIFE.**





Boston SCORES

The **William Ohrenberger Owls** created and printed their own cookbook filled with healthy recipes and student poems to promote healthy eating. The students ran an informational booth at their school's International Night. At their booth they had fruit and vegetable taste testing, games, and distributed their cookbook to parents and school staff.



America SCORES Los Angeles

Palms Elementary completed a project entitled "Haikus for Heroes" where the students wrote small poems about what heroes look like in their community and lives. Each haiku is accompanied by a hand-drawn picture of a hero doing hero work.

**I AM A HERO.
I AM FRIENDLY TO OTHERS.
I HELP MY BROTHERS.**



America SCORES Chicago

Under the direction of Coach Edy, the **Castellanos 3rd-5th grade "Comet" girls** researched and produced a PSA video focused on immigration rights, facts, and resources. The talented poet-athletes acted out a scene depicting steps to take if ICE agents come to a place of residence. The video was shared on the America SCORES Chicago Facebook page, receiving 95 shares and 7.5K views!



Canada SCORES Vancouver

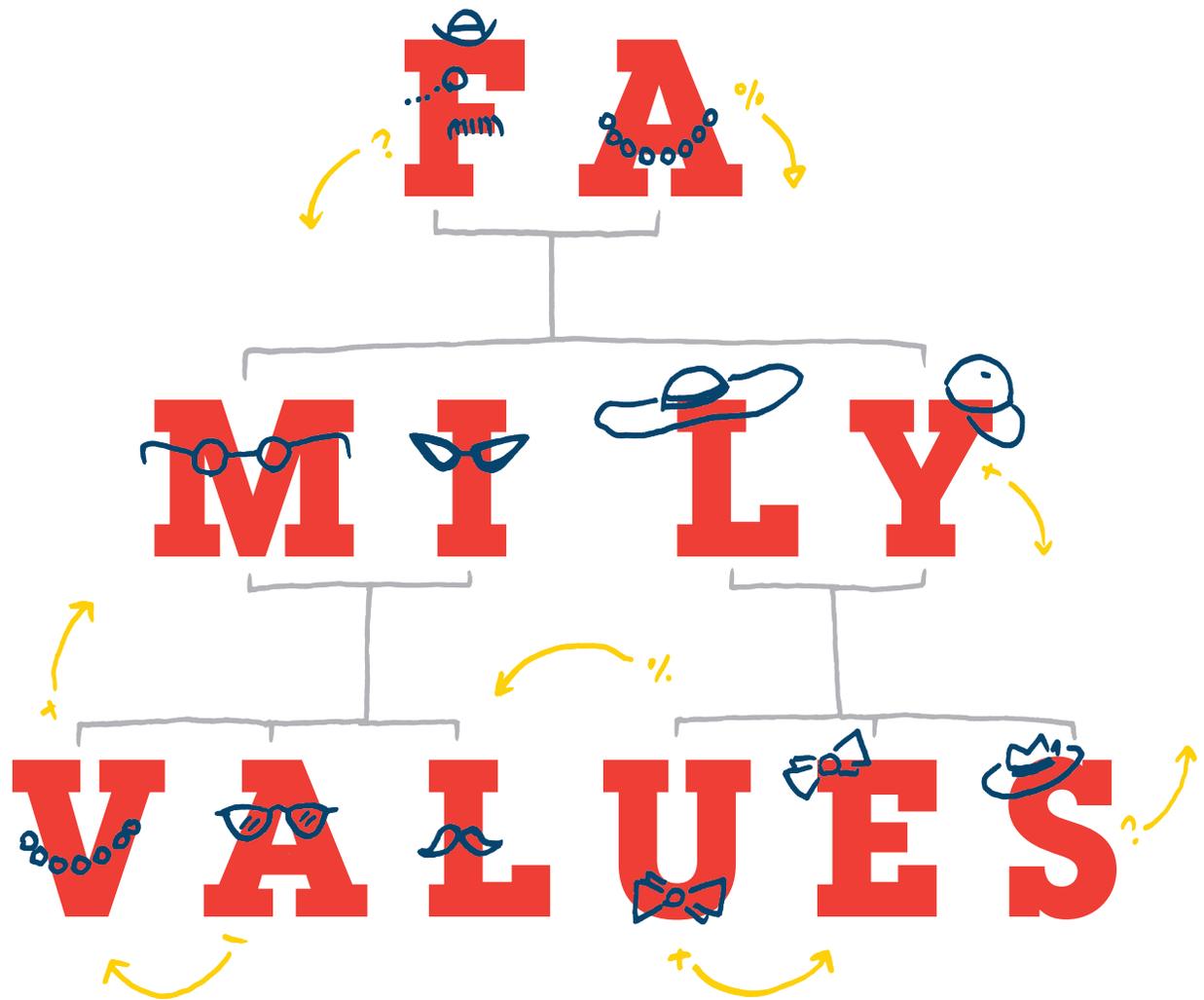
The **Edmonds SCORES team** chose to raise awareness and funds to support the BC Children's Hospital Foundation. The group created a campaign plan to accept and pick up returnable bottles and cans from school staff and neighbourhood families. They would go to accept the items and then spend their time sorting and taking loads to the return-it depot.

**WOOHOO!
THEY RAISED
OVER \$270!**



America SCORES Milwaukee

The **Riley SCORES team** partnered with the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission to raise awareness of animal neglect as well as the significant number of animals in shelters waiting to go to a good home. During their project, the team presented information to their school, and hosted a fundraiser to purchase supplies that were in high need at the shelter.



My Father: A Recipe

Start with 200mL complaining
Mix with 1 ounce of the best that he wanted you to be
Pour 2 gallons of the talk about the mistake
Add a pint of the "try again"
Pour infinite cups of my father's upset and hurt feelings
Then put 6 cups of things that your dad taught to you to do well
Then sprinkle all the "sorrys" and "thank you's" you ever made to him
Mix together well, and add some tears that was the love inside the anger
Bake until the time that you mature
Take it out and add a drink of understanding
Even if it's horrible... your dad will still like it.

Benjamin G., Age 10
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER



Dear Abuelita

It's me, Cristian.

I only met you once when I was five.

Do you remember me?

I remember you and I have some questions for you too.

Do you like music and do you like to dance?

How did you meet Grandpa? Was it love at first glance?

Was school hard when you were growing up?

Did you have a favorite class?

How did you feel when my Mom came to America?

Were you happy or were you sad?

What do you think that I should know

About what life is like in Mexico?

Because even though we may be far apart

I think about you all the time

you live with me, in my heart.

Cristian L., Age 11
AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO



**AMERICA SCORES IS
ONE BIG FAMILY,
WE LOVE OUR
POET-ATHLETES!**

**SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE TO
SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY.
ARE YOU PREPARED
TO SHARE THE MIC?**



My Brother

My brother is as cute as a puppy

And also as loud as a fire alarm

And annoying like a baby

Crying over and over and over again

Also stubborn as a locked door

And as sweet as sugar

And as funny as a comedian

Plus he is as awesome as a superhero

And he is as cool as an iceberg

And as weird as a monkey

And loving as a heart.

Chloe P., Age 9
BOSTON SCORES



Greatest Gift

You're not just my friend

You're my rock

You're not just my rock

You're my hero

You're not just hero

You're my home

You're not just my home

You're everything

Butterflies of happiness

Fills my soul

Having you as a friend is

The greatest gift of all

Arryanna M., Age 9
AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK

**NO FAMILY IS TOO BIG,
OR TOO LITTLE! ININGUNA
FAMILIA ES DEMASIADA
GRANDE O PEQUEÑA!**





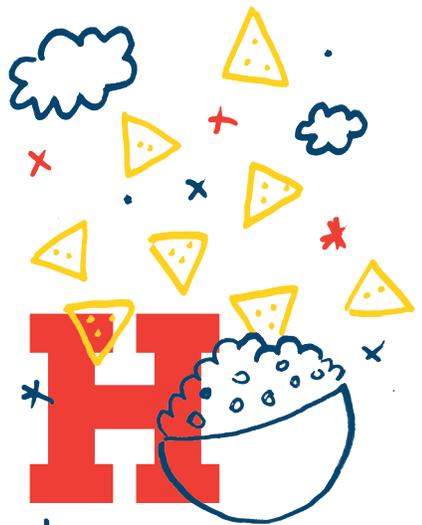
BEING A TEAM MEANS COMING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY. WE ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OTHER ON THE FIELD.

M

My Dad

I wish to see my dad
 I wish to be right next to him
 I wish for him to cheer me on
 Or teach me how to be a man in the future
 But there are boundaries that
 Keep me and my dad away from each other
 And it's sad not having your dad
 To pick you up in hard times
 One day I will see him.

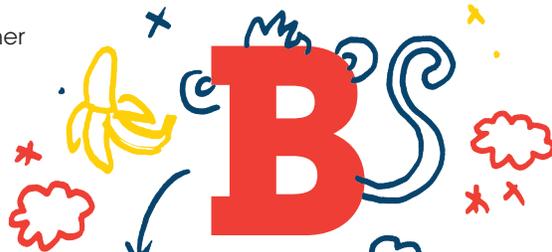
Julian, Age 9
 AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA



Holy Guac

Holy Guacamole
 My mom is it
 The one and only
 The one guacamole
 And loves me
 Like I am holy
 Mother, I will dream
 And you will be guacamole
 A very yummy guacamole
 That is what you'll be
 A holy, wealthy, yummy guacamole.

Rachel S.E., Age 8
 AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK



Big Brother

I have a baby sister.
 Living with her is like living with a twister.
 I think that she belongs in a zoo,
 She speaks her own language and sounds like a monkey, too.
 She pulls on my bows
 And tries on my clothes.
 She gets under my skin and makes it really hard to win.
 Although she follows me everywhere,
 A life without her I can't bear.
 It's true she sometimes brings me joy,
 But Oh! Does she know how to annoy!

Franklin A.D., Age 11
 DC SCORES

DOODLES

OR

DOODLES

DOODLES

DOODLES



FIND A DOODLE ON THIS PAGE THAT YOU LIKE. CAN YOU DRAW IT IN THE SPACE PROVIDED?

Encuentra un garabato en esta página que te gusta.
 ¿Puedes dibujarla abajo?

Now, think of some similes about the doodle you picked.
 Remember, a simile uses "like" or "as" to compare one thing with another. The first one has been done for you!

Ahora, piensa en algunos símiles sobre el garabato que escogiste. Acuérdate, un símil se usa "como" para comparar una cosa con otra. Se ha hecho el primer para tí.

EXAMPLE:

This doodle is SMALL like a KITTEN.
 Este garabato es PEQUEÑO como un GATITO.

OK, LET'S GET STARTED!

This doodle is as _____ as a(n) _____.
 This doodle is _____ like a _____.
 This doodle is as _____ as a(n) _____.
 This doodle is _____ like a _____.

Love vs Hate

Love is a box of Kit-Kats
Love is a kiss from your parents
Love is homework being done early
Love is looking out for your younger siblings
Love is going out on a date with your boyfriend
Love is going on vacation to Florida
Love is donating to Puerto Rico
Love is no racism
Love is a free college career

Hate is a cyberbully
Hate is a divorce from your husband
Hate is unhealthy
Hate is seeing a frown on someone's face
Hate is racism
Hate is drugs
Hate is suicide
Hate is bullying
Hate is the devil
Hate is getting in a fight with your brother

Yuliana G., Age 11
BOSTON SCORES

Haters

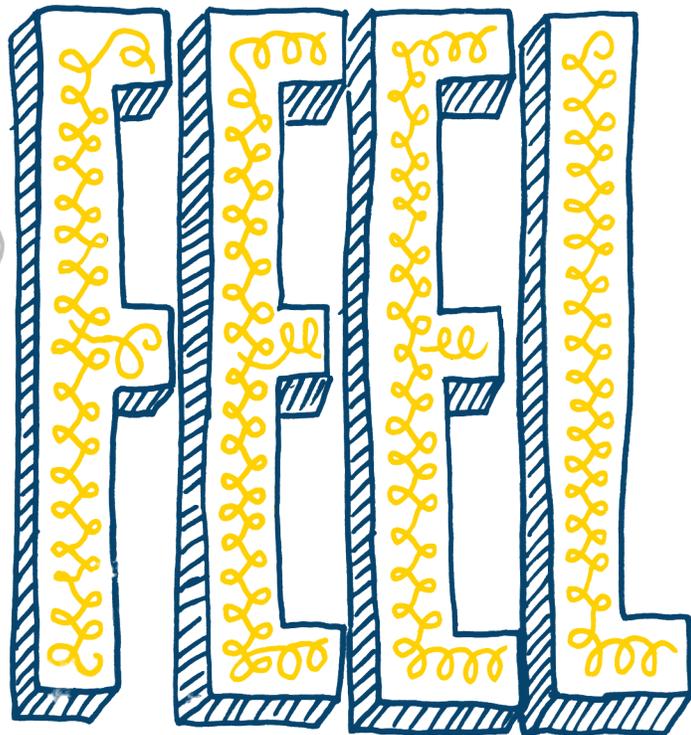
Haters, Haters...
All you're doing is getting in my way.
So please go away,
Stop playing with me; I'm not in the zone today.
Haters, Haters...
Get out my face.
I'm a lover not a fighter,
So I'm walking away,
Don't add to the problem,
Let's just shake hands or stay away.
Let me be the bigger person to just say hey,
Today is the day for the Haters to just fly away.

Auhlayia B., Age 11
AMERICA SCORES ST. LOUIS

Mad

it feels like you are a bursting volcano
and your brain is about to explode
it smells like burned grass.
it tastes like eating sardines
you see everything Dark red.

Camila, Age 10
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA



Colors of Feelings

Red is the color of hate, anger and frustration.
Green is the color of happiness and calmness.
Yellow is the color of excitement and glee.
White is the color of cleanliness and gentleness.
Black is the color of confusion and blindness.

Ethan C., Age 9
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE

Acceptance

Acceptance isn't always easy.
It can be a good thing or a bad thing.
Acceptance is something that you need to have in your life.

Acceptance is sometimes hurtful
Acceptance takes time to think about it.

Palms Elementary School
AMERICA SCORES LOS ANGELES



When We Join Hands

When we join hands, we're together.
When we flap our wings,
we're above each other.
We might not be together forever,
but happily, now we are.
Sometimes we have to let go, but it is hard.
You can't hold on forever, but you can try.
All of us are different,
and we should be happy about it.
War should stop.
Because that will make us let go.

Alice C., Age 11
AC PORTLAND

Love is So Sweet

Love is so sweet
It comes slowly
But I never feel lonely
It's as good as macaroni
It's like winning a trophy
Love is so sweet
When I see my crush
I get cheesy
Someone who I trust
And I don't feel queasy
Love is so sweet
I can get a cavity
But it's great to be with my family
And I enjoy being with friends
I hope our friendship never ends

Pilsen Community Academy
AMERICA SCORES CHICAGO

SILLY SYLLABLES

Read the poetry on this page.
Can you find a word with three syllables?

Lee la poesía en esta página.
¿Puedes encontrar una palabra con tres sílabas?

Write it here: _____

Escríbala aquí: _____

Can you think of 3 words that rhyme with
the word you found?

¿Puedes identificar tres palabras que rimen
con la palabra que encontraste?

Kickin' It with Joanna Lohman

Long-time America SCORES champion, Joanna Lohman, is a professional soccer player for the Washington Spirit of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). Joanna is also a powerful advocate for LGBT rights and acceptance. The Spirit midfielder also participates in the state department's Sports Envoy program, which has taken her to Thailand, Botswana, and, just this fall, Côte d'Ivoire. We caught up with Joanna while she was overseas in Indonesia, as a part of the program.



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL SOCCER?

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to become a professional soccer player. So, considering this is actually my job, it is literally a dream come true. I get to do what I love, day after day and that is very unique. This is not to say it is EASY, it is hard work. You train six days a week and when you are not playing, you are doing whatever it takes to recover and prepare your body for the

physical demand. This requires an incredible amount of discipline.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR SCORES POET/ATHLETES?

It is cool to be vulnerable—to open yourself up to be totally present in the moment and to feel. Use those feelings to grow and build awareness of who you are and who you want to be. And do not be afraid to express those feelings through your play

on the field and through your poetry.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUNG GIRLS PLAYING SPORTS?

Love the game. Whatever game you play. Love it in its purest form and you will never lose it. There will be days where you feel discouraged and unsupported in your dreams, but the process of striving will lead you to greatness. Never let go of that hope.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE OUTSIDE OF SOCCER?

I love to sing and dance. Anyone who follows me on Instagram (@joannalohman15) will get a clear view of this. I have my own bluetooth karaoke microphone and bongo drums. I also have my own high energy dance squad that films videos and spreads joy through music. Our band name is 51st State. On any given weekend, you will find me dancing on stage at a club and singing my heart out all over the city of DC.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPORTS ENVOY?

The programs that I have run internationally have really opened my eyes and mind to the way we can use soccer to break down barriers. It is incredibly powerful to see the community that is built around the sport and the way it empowers the youth. Sport teaches valuable lessons that one can use in every aspect of his or her life—determination, focus, leadership, teamwork, resilience, passion, time management, to just name a few. Also, and most importantly, it brings a sense of joy because you are able to simply PLAY. 

Sport teaches valuable lessons that one can use in every aspect of his or her life—determination, focus, leadership, teamwork, resilience, passion, time management, to just name a few.



FOLLOW JOANNA
AS SHE AND THE
WASHINGTON SPIRIT
EMBARK ON THE 2018
NWSL SEASON.

CHECK HER OUT ON
INSTAGRAM (@JOANNALOHMAN15) AND
TWITTER (@JOANNALOHMAN).

Skill Drills!

THE OLD SWITCHEROO

World Cup Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the words below to reveal five of the countries competing for the World Cup this summer in Moscow, Russia.

Descifra cada una de las siguientes palabras para revelar cinco de los países que compiten por la copa del mundo este verano en Moscú, Rusia

OH, YEAH!
DON'T FORGET
TO CELEBRATE!!!



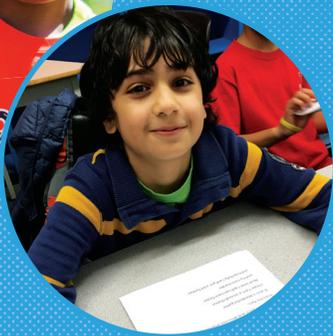
YENAMRG _____

ZRABIL _____

EACRNF _____

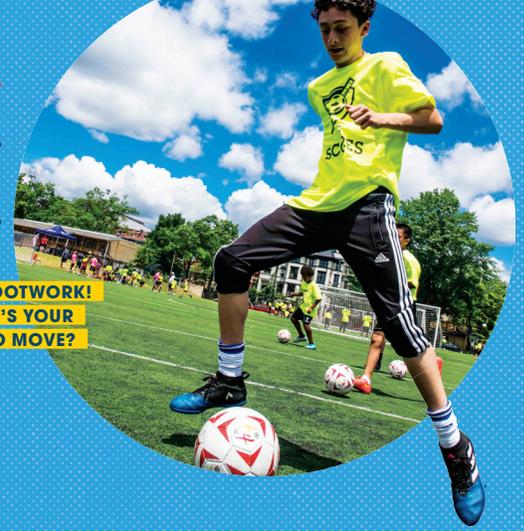
NSIAP _____

SISAUR _____



IF YOU WORK HARD,
YOU EARN THE CHANCE
TO PLAY HARD.





POET-ATHLETE LINGO

Skills Session Word Search

q k i t u a s l r n n k q h j
 r u d f z x v h e y o v m g b
 e h q n y s h a x l h c k l j
 h t a e l c e i p m r t v z q
 p t s i u z l k d o n e d d q
 s o n n e t b u s r e r b j p
 y r l t q t b s g l q t n d e
 j d e w c t i g f s b d j g z
 v s t w d j r c o s f s d f g
 c t i o h p d p t y z q h s r
 a c r m h c x c w b o v v w p
 u h w l i s v n g c j l c b j
 g n k s i l h l x f o g y z w
 s l v m u b e x t s c i b c j
 q t k m g j p b h f i l v b s

Simile
Shot

Dribble
Haiku

Sonnet
Cross

Stanza
Cleft



Talking Emotions with Philip Hewitt

Philip has been coaching Soccer and Poetry with America SCORES since 2010. He has worked all over the eastside of Cleveland to inspire creative writing and healthy living in SCORES' poet-athletes.

Philip has been involved in the grassroots poetry scene of Cleveland since 2013, using his poetry to protest the police killing of Tamir Rice; organizing poetry slams to spread awareness on Zero Tolerance Policy and the Cradle to Prison Pipeline; and facilitating community workshops for kids of all ages.

Philip's inspiration includes poetic responses to economic oppression, racial disparities and reunion, and a natural response to urban blight and capitalist exploitation. SCORES youth inspire him every day, and Philip believes every child has profound poetry to share with the world.



WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A POETRY COACH WITH AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND?

I became a soccer coach in 2010. I initially applied for both soccer and poetry positions. I started coaching poetry when I began working at Willow Elementary. I used to sit in on poetry sessions with other coaches in order to provide support. I also wanted to show the poet-athletes that poetry was just as important as the soccer part of the program. I know literacy is an issue in the

Cleveland Metropolitan School District and wanted to show the importance of literacy.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORABLE POET-ATHLETES OR POEMS THEY HAVE WRITTEN?

This past season I had a poet named Ricardo on my middle school team at Wade Park School. At the start of the season he was quiet, an introvert. One day he came into our session very upset. He was visibly frustrated. I took him aside and asked him to write about it. I wanted

him to understand that poetry was a tool he could use to get his frustrations out of his head. He spent the whole session writing about the chaos in his classroom that was causing him to be upset. He was a prolific writer throughout the season, he had a number of great poems that he wrote.

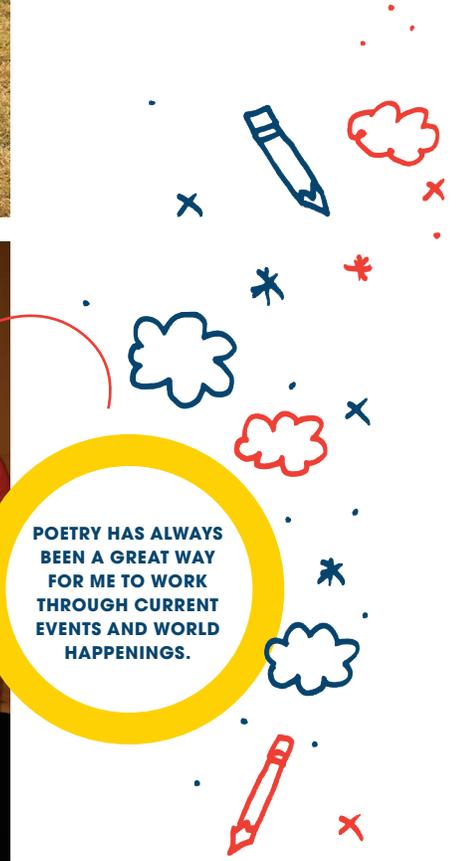
WHAT DO YOU TRY TO TEACH YOUR POET-ATHLETES WHEN IT COMES TO POETRY?

There is a strong social emotional aspect to poetry, that kids don't get from basic curriculum in general. Poetry allows the poet-athletes to understand their emotions and deal with feelings they might not know how to deal with otherwise. Poetry is especially important in Cleveland neighborhoods where literacy is an issue, usually a family issue. Poetry allows more work with that issue.

WHEN DID YOU START WRITING POETRY? WHY?

I have been writing poetry pretty much my whole life, trying to take in all the

Poetry allows the poet-athletes to understand their emotions and deal with feelings they might not know how to deal with otherwise.



elements and different ways poets write. In my adult life my social justice has become one of my passions. After events like what happened with Tamir Rice, I have had a passion for writing out feelings and dealing with real world issues. I also try to explain to the kids that poetry is a great way for them to create a platform and use it to talk about the challenges they may face in their lives.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE TOPICS TO WRITE ABOUT?

Poetry has always been a great way for me to work through current events and world happenings. I like to try to take imagery to explore topics further. I think the symbology that nature provides is important. I like to take the nature imagery and compare it with an urban landscape. Sometimes this type of symbology and imagery is liberating.

It brings things to light in new ways and helps people break out of the way of thinking they previously had.

WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE POEM/POETRY YOU ARE SHARING WITH US TODAY?

One of the poems is more along the social justice lines that I write, exploring the life of a man who fought for social justice, Fred Ahmed Evans. **KI**



Fred Ahmed Evans Lead us to Heaven



I TRY TO EXPLAIN TO THE KIDS
THAT POETRY IS A GREAT
WAY FOR THEM TO CREATE A
PLATFORM AND USE IT TO TALK
ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THEY
MAY FACE IN THEIR LIVES.

FOR DR. MARY MCCLEOD BETHUNE

Righting our requests
this man
that taught teens to hold rifles

could grin down pig snouts, big long barrels
he set beads on RePo Men
fighting fire

and sent gunmen, gunmen down
Beulah Ave
man, woman, and child
with Shahada breath
panting!

he wrote off having his rights read and released
onetwo bucks to the bang
against those pigs who write wrongs in notepads

in chest pockets.
he fears no man
with respect to no god
but Allah
and Muhammed is his messenger

so Ahmed is His defense
against the KKK
in the CLE

His defense against
blood running down Lakeview Boulevard

or liquor stores opening on Ramadan
like 115th is not divisible by the 9th month

the shootout

will not add years of time
to life
but strife
and leaves glenville in a
stand off
stale mate
block busted
shim sham
hot bed
of
re
Ne
ssaince

close your textbooks
and grab hold of something
you can't find your way
you must make it
today on the frontlines

righting rights,
leaving written requests for those in the wrong
for those in the heights or in the wood can't be so
strong so if the northside ain't your hood

then think for yourself
and make your own.



See What I See

Look at the world today,
Do you see what I see?

Little boys, girls and adults all over the world that are homeless, hurting, hungry, unwanted,

And if that is not enough,

We have bigger problems

Looting, killing, natural disasters putting so many in need

Happening every second, minute, hour, day, month, year

But makes me sad and even sometimes mad is that people don't seem to care,

So let us come together and fix this world

Because I can see what is happening even as a little girl.

Kalia T., Age 8
AMERICA SCORES ST. LOUIS



Harlem Streets

I walk down the street
 I see people fighting and arguing
 I'm from Harlem.
 Where the moon
 takes over the sky
 The stars they shine
 I focus on school and soccer.
 I'm blessed to be me.
 Thankful for my teammates.
 I wish I can be perfect
 But no one is perfect like the infinite
 universe.

Elijah F., Age 13
 AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK



Peace
 Love
 Hate
 Hate

The world hate is such a word that I've heard
 It's a powerful word
 Nobody should say it, it should be a peaceful place
 But instead it's a world of hate and pain
 And it brings me to shame
 That I have to live in a world of hate
 And the word hate so many people bring
 But not Martin Luther King and all the other heroes that gave
 us peace, love and glory
 But I bet it brings them to shame to see all this hate
 Hey, the world needs to change
 Peace
 It's such a beautiful word
 That needs to be heard more in the universe
 No racism, no hate
 It needs to be peaceful every day
 Why do some people have to hate
 It has to be peaceful all day every day
 No hate has to be seen in this world
 No, not today, please
 We need peace, love and glory
 Not all this stuff happening, it'll make us worry
 And yeah, there's one thing to say
 Truly, the world needs to change
 Love
 It doesn't have much to bring
 Just like peace, what a shameful thing
 This is how much it brings, such a small little thing
 Let the glory bring love in special places
 Hate is not good for this big place
 Hey, the world needs to change
 Yeah yeah, the world needs to change

Samira, Jada and Helen, Age 10
 AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE



POETRY HELPS
ME EXPLAIN MY
FEELINGS AND DEAL
WITH DIFFICULT
SITUATIONS



PEACE IN THE WORLD

Imagine a world with no war and no sadness,
No one would ever be sad.
No one would ever be poor.
There would be food, clothes
And a warm home for all.
Everyone would always be smiling.
There would be singing and laughter
Through the air ...
Ah who am I kidding!!
Someone would probably start a little fight,
Which would turn into a big fight,
That would turn into a huge fight
And then, before you know it...
We have a war.
The people and families will be sad,
Then people get scared
There is MADNESS everywhere!



HA!



?!!



Jo An H., Age 10
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER

WHY

People are dying
Children are not surviving
I truly pray for me myself and I
Also Families like yours and Mine
When I look up at the stars
I ask them why
Why are there so many drug sellers
Why are there so many killers
Most of all
Why are there so many diseases
This country says I can Be who I want to be
But this president won't let me be me myself and I
He's telling families that they cannot stay alive
But his family came to this country
Like yours and mine
I feel I can't survive in this country
In this country
That says my dreams stay alive
Everytime I look up at the stars
I ask myself why oh why

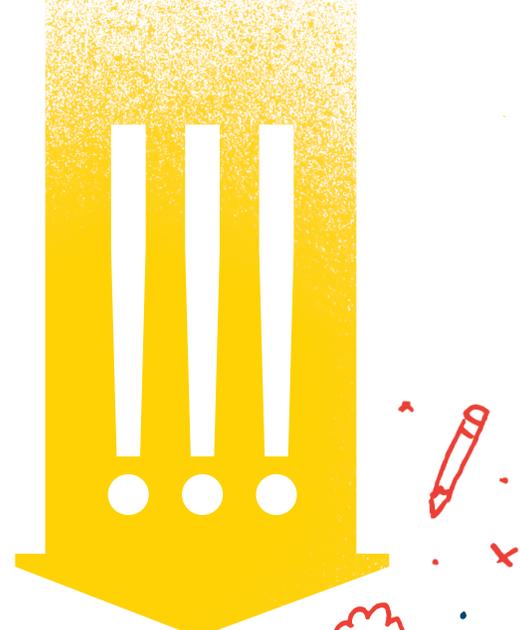
Azmia G.K., Age 10
AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK



REALLY AMERICA?

Tears from OUR people, fall from the sky,
 Homes in RUINS, making us all cry,
 Hopefully things will get better, as time passes by,
 Just the thought of it though, makes my chest tight!
 Making new rips, in the history of our books,
 Having no energy, they can't even cook!
 It looks really wrong now, wev're taking their finances,
 This is AMERICA! We should be taking different stances!
 Is there a pleasure, for hurting others from a distance?
 It happened just like that (SNAP), just in an instance,
 They shout for help, but we show much resistance,
 We haven't really helped, we gave little TO NO ASSISTANCE!
 Really AMERICA???

Nyomi R., Age 13
 AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK



Maria

You, storm of madness,
 Nos trataste de quitar esperanza
 Strong and cruel,
 Con cada arbol
 Sunk my country in sadness
 Que moviste,
 Made us feel defeat.
 Con cada casa que te llevaste
 You tried to take hope away
 Todas esas bellas imagines,
 With every single tree
 De tierras, una memoria
 You tried to sway
 Vidas dejadas con una mezcla,
 With every home you take
 De profundo desespero
 All those beautiful pictures
 Crees que nos dejaste sin esperanza
 Of lands now a memory
 Cuando en realidad dejaste mas
 Lives left with a mixture
 No nos decaeremos
 Of deep despair
 Somos mas Fuertes que antes!

You think you left us without hope
 When in truth you gave us more
 We don't mope
 We are stronger than before

Thomas Jefferson
 International Newcomers
 Academy
 AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND



Life is a Crisis

Everyday people get killed,
Las Vegas they fulfill.
Life is a crisis.
People in gangs, the gun goes boom,
Everybody running from death.
My best friend Seth, just died,
He barely lived his life.
Life is a crisis.
You might get killed,
And still they make you pay bills.
Whoa man, I don't know what you're doing,
You're intruding in this community.
Knock me down and watch me bounce back.
Break your neck working for the cheese,
Like that sitting on a mouse trap.
Life is a crisis.

Adan A., Age 10
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE

VIOLENCE

NO
SAFE
PLACE
MAKE A
CHANGE

NO
FREEDOM
REAL
CHANGE

Violence, Violence, Violence,
All around me all I see is violence,
All I see is people being mean,
No safe space, no freedom,
I can't even ride my bike around the neighborhood,
So come on people its time,
Let's make a chance,
This time let's make a real change.
Stop hurting each other,
So, come on people let's just be nice to one
another.
I can't stand it anymore, all I see is...
Violence, Violence, Violence.

Caden J., Age 11
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

Mother Nature

MOTHER NATURE??! HOW COULD YOU??
You're making the people of Puerto Rico, D.R., and Texas to choose...
Should I leave or should I STAY?
Some weren't so lucky...
And are being Remembered TODAY!
THE WINDS!!, THE WINDS!!, O.M.G. THE WINDS!!
IT broke trees, houses, and many peoples hearts...
It caused many people to fall to their KNEES,
The dropped to the ground,
Like the flowers of dead SEEDS!
THE ROAR OF THE RAIN! OH THE RAIN, HOW IT ROARED!!
Across these countries, the flood was their taking over the streets,
Many lost their homes, literally just DESTROYED,
This tragic moment was so hard,
Soooo hard to AVOID!
I'M WONDERING IF MOTHER NATURE IS RELATED TO THE NATURE OF MAN??
But when the truth is told, nobody will really understand?
We don't care enough about others, we're starting to become HEARTLESS,
The question really is,
Will they care about us, when NORTH KOREA REALLY STARTS THIS!!
Mother Nature, I feel sorry for you...

Gianna A., Age 11
AMERICA SCORES NEW YORK

Fly High

I wish I could fly.
I wish I could fly as high as a bird.
Well, higher.
Like a flock of birds.
Let me be extravagant, better than a flock.
Let me fly like a jet, a beautiful jet, a colorful jet.
Well just like a plane, but not that plain.
I wish I could fly, like a blue space ship.
Full of aliens and unusual things.
Like the magic school bus, with adventures, trips
and learning new things about science and earth.
If I can fly high, I can see the moon, and learn new things.
I fly high when I flap my wings.

Corinthia H., Age 10
AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

Kitty Cat

I am an orange cat.
I have black spots on my belly.
And a little white spot on my head.
I am moving my legs fast.
To run away from the big grumpy dogs.
That live at McDonald's in the 70's.
Mr. Delicious in my name.
I love to eat fresh tuna.
It keeps me strong to catch the mice in the barn.
I curl up when I sleep.
I dream of a mansion filled with tuna.
I am a tuna lover.

Kelly K., Age 9
CANADA SCORES VANCOUVER

Banana House

I wish my house was made of Banana
Because I like how banana smells
And it's healthy for me
Two bad things about banana house though
Is the house will be squish and yellow
And I don't like yellow
Because yellow is too bright
And one will like squish
Because squish feels like an animal
And I don't like it.

Eduardo, Age 8
AMERICA SCORES BAY AREA

I am Peaceful and Quiet

I am peaceful and quiet
I wonder how a waterfall starts
I hear a dragon roar
I see a phoenix soaring through the sky
I want to see the universe
I am peaceful and quiet
I pretend I am a detective
I feel the star
I touch the soft fur of a wolf
I worry about my family
I cry when I get left out
I am peaceful and quiet
I understand what is right for me
I say that everyone should be nice and equal
I dream for a lucky day
I try to do my best
I hope my future is good
I am peaceful and quiet

Long V., Age 8
AMERICA SCORES SEATTLE



Sounds

Boom! Pow!
 Here I come
 Super hero twins on the run
 Ruf! Ruf!
 The dogs were startled
 Because the twins started to howl!
 The twins were bad
 Boo! Boo!
 But the crowd knew they would improve.
 Ring! Ring!
 The phone is ringing
 Ding Dong!
 Open up let me in!

Emmarie M., Age 10
 AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

Roller Coaster

My heart is poundn'
 Stomach feels too round -n- ,
 I probably shouldn't have
 Ate that sandwich. The tracks
 Are move n'. My shoes a
 Slipping. My hands are gripping.
 Sweats dripping. So what's wrong?
 It was the pressure, no pleasure
 What so ever. The height and the
 Fright. The sun beaming, my mouth
 Screaming. What could it be? Then,
 My friends a-smilen' while imma cryn'.
 My feet hanging from my dress. To summarize
 Oh this roller coaster is a mess.

Skyler G., Age 9
 AMERICA SCORES CLEVELAND

The Superhero in Me

Is like Flash I'm fast when I kick the ball through the goal
 The Superhero in Me
 Is like Wonder Woman strong, respectful, and responsible
 The Superhero in Me
 Is like The Hulk a leader on and off the field
 The Superhero in Me
 Is like Supergirl helping those in need
 The Superhero in Me
 Is like Batgirl powerful and brave
 The Superhero in Me
 Is like Spiderman kind and caring
 The Superhero in Me shows teamwork, leadership and commitment!

Burrville Elementary School
 DC SCORES

S'Mores

Whooo whooo says the owl
 As we crunch leaves under our feet.
 POP. CRACK. The fire starts.
 RIIIP open the bag of marshmallows.
 I melt it and put it on the chocolate and crackers.
 CRUNCH! I take a big bite.
 My s'mores taste good for me!
 MMMMMMMMMM!!!

Luzelaina M., Age 9
 AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

All About Me

Special like a baby
 Helpful like a good friend
 Excellent at dancing
 Intelligent at school
 Lazy like my dog
 Young and beautiful
 Mysterious like a book
 Afraid of spiders
 Rare like a Pokémon

Sheilymar Q., Age 9
 AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

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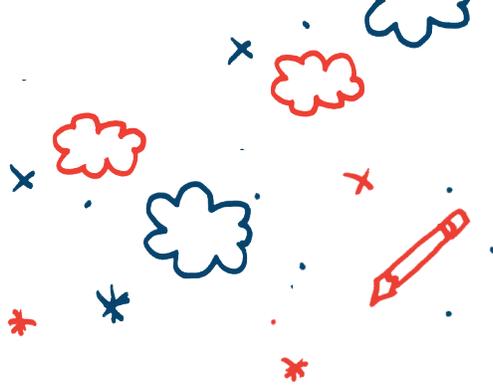
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Crazy Comics



Fill in the blanks below with a word that describes what's going on in the comic. Make your own story. Continue the comic on another page; what happens next?

Completa los espacios en blanco con una palabra que describa lo que está sucediendo en el cómic. Haz tu propia historia Continúa el comic en otra página; ¿Qué pasa después?



Let's Doodle!

Did you find all the poetry pencils?
Want the answer?
You can find it upside down at the bottom of this page.

¿Encontraste todos los lápices de poesía?
¿Quieres la respuesta?
Lo puedes encontrar en la parte inferior de esta página.

There are 40 poetry pencils!
¡Hay 40 lápices de poesía!

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