

## Dear Basketball,

- 1) From the moment  
I started rolling my dad's tube socks  
And shooting imaginary  
Game-winning shots  
In the Great Western Forum  
I knew one thing was real:
  - 2) I fell in love with you.  
A love so deep I gave you my all —  
From my mind & body  
To my spirit & soul.
  - 3) As a six-year-old boy  
Deeply in love with you  
I never saw the end of the tunnel.  
I only saw myself  
Running out of one.
  - 4) And so I ran.  
I ran up and down every court  
After every loose ball for you.  
You asked for my hustle  
I gave you my heart  
Because it came with so much more.
  - 5) I played through the sweat and hurt  
Not because challenge called me  
But because YOU called me.  
I did everything for YOU  
Because that's what you do  
When someone makes you feel as  
Alive as you've made me feel.
  - 6) You gave a six-year-old boy his Laker  
dream  
And I'll always love you for it.  
But I can't love you obsessively for much  
longer.
  - 7) This season is all I have left to give.  
My heart can take the pounding  
My mind can handle the grind  
But my body knows it's time to say  
goodbye.
  - 8) And that's OK.  
I'm ready to let you go.  
I want you to know now  
So we both can savor every moment we  
have left together.  
The good and the bad.  
We have given each other  
All that we have.
  - 9) And we both know, no matter what I do next  
I'll always be that kid  
With the rolled up socks  
Garbage can in the corner  
:05 seconds on the clock  
Ball in my hands.  
5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1
- Love you always,

Kobe

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, which is the signature of Kobe Bryant. It features fluid, connected strokes with a prominent 'K' and 'B'.

## ***Epistolary Poem***

**Directions:** Using Kobe Bryant's, "Dear Basketball" poem as a mentor text, write your own epistolary poem. Your poem must contain an object to write a letter to, personification, metaphor, imagery, and reprise as it tells a chronological personal story. Word count **150-200** words. Minimum of **7** stanzas.

**Epistolary:** a literary work written in the form of a letter.

**Object** (This is the object you write about.)

Dear
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**Personification-** giving human-like qualities to nonhuman objects. How will you personify your object? Think of three qualities/traits your object will have?

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What story do you want to tell? Think about **chronological order** (start to finish).

Beginning	Middle	End

**Metaphor**

I will compare...	to...	For the purpose of...

**Imagery-** use descriptive words to create an image. What picture would you like to paint for your audience?

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**Reprise-** think about which line you want to repeat toward the end of your poem.

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