

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, likely representing Kobe Bryant. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'K' and 'B' that are interconnected. The rest of the name is written in a more compact, cursive style.

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

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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