

Dear Basketball,

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:

I fell in love with you.

A love so deep I gave you my all —
From my mind & body
To my spirit & soul.

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.

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.

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.



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.
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.

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.

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



"Dear Basketball" A letter by Kobe Bryant

Dear Basketball,

From the (1) _____

I started rolling my dad's tube (2) _____

And shooting imaginary game-winning shots in the Great Western Forum

I knew one thing was (3) _____

I fell in love with (4) _____.

A love so deep I gave you my (5) _____ -

From my (6) _____ & body, to my spirit & soul.

As a (7) _____-year-old boy

Deeply in love with you

I (8) _____ saw the end of the tunnel.

I only saw myself running out of one. And so I (9) _____.

I ran up and down every (10) _____

After every loose ball for you.

You asked for my hustle, I gave you my (11) _____

Because it came with so much more.

I played through the sweat and (12) _____

Not because challenge called me, but because YOU called (13) _____.

I did everything for (14) _____, because that's what you do

When someone makes you (15) _____ as alive as you've made me feel.

You gave a six-year-old boy his Laker (16) _____

And I'll (17) _____ love you for it.



But I can't love you obsessively for much (18) _____.

This (19) _____ is all I have left to give.

My (20) _____ can take the pounding

My mind can handle the grind

But my (21) _____ knows it's time to say (22) _____.

And that's (23) _____.

I'm ready to let you (24) _____.

I (25) _____ you to know now

So we both can savor every (26) _____ we have left together.

The (27) _____ and the bad.

We have given each other

(28) _____ that we have.

And we both know, no matter what I do (29) _____

I'll always be that kid

With the rolled up socks

Garbage can in the corner

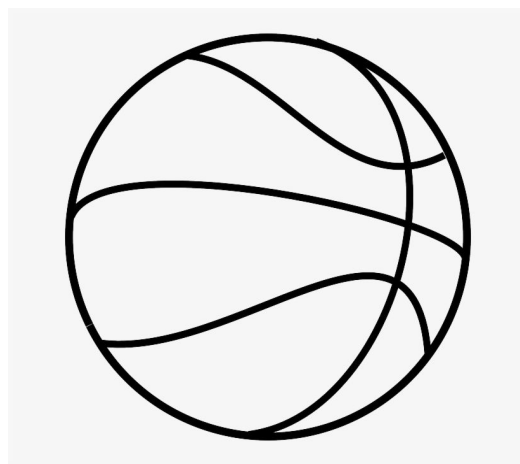
:05 seconds on the (30) _____

Ball in my hands.

5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1

Love you always,

Kobe



(Answer Key)

"Dear Basketball" A letter by Kobe Bryant



Dear Basketball,
From the (1) moment
I started rolling my dad's tube (2) socks
And shooting imaginary game-winning shots in the Great Western Forum
I knew one thing was (3) real
I fell in love with (4) YOU.
A love so deep I gave you my (5) all –
From my (6) mind & body, to my spirit & soul.
As a (7) six-year-old boy
Deeply in love with you
I (8) never saw the end of the tunnel.
I only saw myself running out of one. And so I (9) ran.
I ran up and down every (10) court
After every loose ball for you.
You asked for my hustle, I gave you my (11) heart
Because it came with so much more.
I played through the sweat and (12) hurt
Not because challenge called me, but because YOU called (13) me.
I did everything for (14) YOU, because that's what you do
When someone makes you (15) feel as alive as you've made me feel.
You gave a six-year-old boy his Laker (16) dream
And I'll (17) always love you for it.
But I can't love you obsessively for much (18) longer.
This (19) season is all I have left to give.
My (20) heart can take the pounding
My mind can handle the grind
But my (21) body knows it's time to say (22) goodbye.
And that's (23) OK.
I'm ready to let you (24) go.
I (25) want you to know now
So we both can savor every (26) moment we have left together.
The (27) good and the bad.
We have given each other
(28) all that we have.
And we both know, no matter what I do (29) next
I'll always be that kid
With the rolled up socks
Garbage can in the corner
:05 seconds on the (30) clock
Ball in my hands.
5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1
Love you always,
Kobe

"WH" Questions- follow up activity

- 1- *Who did Kobe Bryant write the letter to?*
- 2- *What did Kobe fall in love with?*
- 3- *What was he doing when he realized he loved basketball?*
- 4- *Who was he rolling socks in tubes for?*
- 5- *What did Kobe give to his love?*
- 6- *What was his love?/ What did he love?*
- 7- *How old was Kobe when he fell in love with this sport?*
- 8- *What did Kobe see himself running out of?*
- 9- *Where did Kobe run?*
- 10- *What did the ball 'ask' Kobe for?*
11. *What did he give to his ball?*
- 12- *What did he play through?*
- 13- *Who 'called' Kobe to play?*
- 14- *What did Kobe do for basketball?*
- 15- *How did basketball make Kobe feel?*
- 16- *What dream did Kobe have as a 6 year old boy?*
- 17- *How much more to give did Kobe have when he wrote the letter?*
(How long is a basketball season?)
- 18- *What can take the pounding?*
- 19- *What could Kobe's mind handle?*
- 20- *What does his body know it is time for?*
- 21- *What was Kobe's body telling him?*
- 22- *What's 'OK'?*
- 23- *What was he ready to do?*
- 24- *What did he want to savour?*
- 25- *What did Kobe plan to do next?*
- 26- *Who will Kobe always be?*
- 27- *Where was his garbage can standing?*
- 28- *How many seconds on the clock?*
- 29- *Where was the ball?*
What was in his hands?

"WH" Questions- follow up activity

- 1- Who did Kobe Bryant write the letter to? He wrote his letter to a basketball
- 2- What did Kobe fall in love with? He fell in love with the sport/basketball/ball
- 3- What was he doing when he realized he loved basketball? He was rolling his dad's socks and shooting imaginary game winning shots
- 4- Who was he rolling socks in tubes for? For his dad
- 5- What did Kobe give to his love? He gave his ALL- mind, body, spirit & soul
- 6- What was his love?/ What did he love? He loved basketball
- 7- How old was Kobe when he fell in love with this sport? He was 6 years old.
- 8- What did Kobe see himself running out of? A tunnel
- 9- Where did Kobe run? He ran up and down every court.
- 10- What did the ball 'ask' Kobe for? It asked him for his hustle.
11. What did he give to his ball? He gave it his heart.
- 12- What did he play through? Swear and hurt
- 13- Who 'called' Kobe to play? Basketball did .
- 14- What did Kobe do for basketball? He did everything for basketball.
- 15- How did basketball make Kobe feel? It made him feel alive!
- 16- What dream did Kobe have as a 6 year old boy? He dreamed about playing for the Lakers.
- 17- How much more to give did Kobe have when he wrote the letter? A season
(How long is a basketball season?)
- 18- What can take the pounding? His heart
- 19- What could Kobe's mind handle? The grind
- 20- What does his body know it is time for? His body knows it is time to say goodbye.
- 21- What was Kobe's body telling him? It was telling him that it was time to say goodbye.
- 22- What's 'OK'? He is OK with retiring from basketball.
- 23- What was he ready to do? He was ready to let it go.
- 24- What did he want to savoir? Every moment of the last season, the good and the bad.
- 25- What did Kobe plan to do next? No matter what- He did not know yet
- 26- Who will Kobe always be? That kid with the rolled up socks
- 27- Where was his garbage can standing? In the corner
- 28- How many seconds on the clock? 5 seconds on the clock.
- 29- Where was the ball? In his hands
What was in his hands? The ball was in his hands.

Empty rectangular box for a title or name.

“ ”

Job:

Picture:

Empty rectangular box for a picture.

Early Life:

Family Life:

Major Accomplishments:

3 Interesting Facts:

Name: _____

Directions: Watch the video "Dear Basketball". Think about what Kobe meant by this. Think about how you can inspire people in your own life. Think about who inspires you.

INSPIRATION: something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create : a force or influence that inspires someone

