

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following poem at least twice, then answer the questions. Your answers should be based on the poem and, unless otherwise indicated, expressed in your own words.

S-T-R-E-T-C-H

Basketball is everything!
It's always been my dream
To deke and sky and dunk and fly,
And play for my school team.

But there's an awful problem
Not one can seem to fix
The team height starts at six foot four,
And I am four foot six.

I'm sure to grow, the coach says;
I'll shoot right up, and then
I'll deke and sky and dunk and fly
The question here is-when?

It might take till I'm thirty
That's what I greatly fear
For I'll no longer be in school-
(Miss Mott says I'll be here.)

I've got to do some growing
(Is there a stretching pill?)
I won't be here at thirty!
(Miss Mott says yes, I will.)

I shall not be discouraged,
I'll never shut the door.
Someday when I sit on the bench
My feet will reach the floor!

I'll make it to the court, then,
To play for my school team.
I'll deke and sky and dunk and fly-
It's always been my dream.

From: *The Last Place Sports Poems of Jeremy Bloom*
By Gordon Korman and Bernice Korman

1. How many stanzas are in the poem?

[1]

2. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

[1]

3. What is preventing the narrator from fulfilling his dream?

_____ [2]

4. Quote **two** consecutive lines which suggest that the narrator is not doing well academically.

_____ [2]

5. How does the narrator feel about basketball?

_____ [2]

6. In the **third** line of stanzas **one, three and seven**, what literary device does the poet use to emphasize how the narrator feels about basketball?

_____ [1]

7. Explain the figurative meaning of the quote: "I'll shoot right up" (stanza three).

_____ [2]

8. Explain the **literal** and **figurative** meanings for the quote: "I'll never shut the door" (stanza six).

(a) Literal Meaning:

_____ [1]

(b) Figurative Meaning:

[2]

9. The last line of stanzas **four** and **five** are placed in brackets. Why does the poet place these lines in brackets?

[2]

10. What is the difference between the narrator's attitude in stanza **four** and his attitude in stanza **six**?

[4]

11. The narrator shows school pride. Give evidence from the poem to support this statement.

[2]

12. How is the coach's attitude towards the narrator **different** from the attitude of Miss Mott?

[4]

13. Give **ONE** reason why the title is suitable for the poem.

[2]

14. What lesson can you learn from this poem?

[2]