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

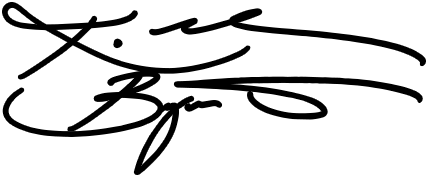
:05 seconds on the clock

Ball in my hands.

5 … 4 … 3 … 2 … 1

Love you always,

Kobe



Dear

|  |
| --- |
| Music |

**Anthropomorphism** - applying human behaviors to nonhuman objects. How will you anthropomorphize your object? Think of three traits/qualities your object will have.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Being a mentor | Being a best friend | Being multi-talented |

What story do you want to tell? Think about chronological order.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Beginning | Middle | End |
| Music has been a big part of my family because of how helpful it is in our lives | Music cheers people up and teaches us extraordinary things. But there is something deeper inside it, something so deep it is in everyone’s souls | Music means something different to everyone, and that’s what makes it so special. It will stay that way forever. |

**Metaphor**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I will compare…. | to…. | for the purpose of... |
| Music | A best friend | Explaining how helpful music can be in life, just like a best friend |

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

|  |
| --- |
| I want to create the image of several people around the world feeling sad and then music comes to cheer them up. |

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

Dear Music,

You have been a big part of every one of my family members

And now my brother and I

But there is a reason for this

You have done so much for my family

And people all around the world

You are the kind of friend no human can be

To those who are feeling down

You are the mentor that no person can ever be

To those who’ve made some poor decisions

You are a different voice inside our human heads

But what can I accomplish with you?

Should I become a famous singer, performing in front of thousands?

Should I play all the instruments that were ever created?

Should I learn all about how you were born?

No, I think there is something else in you

Something not so obvious to ignorant human eyes

It’s something deep inside everyone’s souls

They just have to find it

See, you’ve been a big part of every one of my family members

And now my brother and I

And there’s a reason you stick around for a long time

I like to think it’s because you mean something different to everyone

All those meanings come together to form you

I’m pretty sure you would agree

But anyway, I hope you can hear me

And my message to you

I’ll let you go back to your busy schedule

Of lighting up people’s lives

I just wanted to let you know

That you have a different type of soul

A soul that cannot ever be imitated by a human

A soul that cannot be destroyed either

A soul that will forever inspire

And a soul that will stay in my family

For generations to come