

Resource sheet

Performance poetry

Performance poetry

Pupils should choose one poem from below to perform in small groups. Poems are taken from *Friendly Matches* by Allan Ahlberg.

Soccer Sonnet

Now children, said the teacher with a smile
Put down your books and let your pencils fall
Come out into the playground for a while
And run around with me and kick a ball.
We'll pick two teams and use our coats for goals
(But leave our bags and worries at the door)
And play the game with all our hearts and souls
And never mind the weather or the score.
I'll promise not to test your soccer skills
The ball's the only think you'll need to pass
There'll be no Key Stage Three or spelling drills
There'll be no top or bottom of the class.
So let's forget the gold stars for a day
And get outside – and run around – and play.

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How to Score Goals

(1)
Approach with ball
Point left
Say, 'Ooh, look – a bunny rabbit!'
Shoot right
Goal.

(2)
Approach with ball
Point right
Say ' Ooh, look – a fiver!'
Shoot left
Goal.

(3)
Approach with ball
Say 'Sorry about all this trickery
I never saw any rabbit'
Offer to shake hands
Shoot.

(4)
Approach with ball
Sudden sound of bagpipes
(For this you will need an accomplice)
Goal.

(5)
Approach with ball
Plus cake
Sing 'Happy Birthday to you!'
Invite goalie
To blow his candles out
etc.

(6)
Approach with ball
Point skywards
Say 'Ooh, look – a vulture!'
(He will have forgotten the rabbit by this time)
Goal.



(7)
Approach with ball
Say, 'I bet I can hit you with this next shot'
Shoot.

(8)
Approach with ball
Say ' I am being sponsored for charity
A pound for every goal I score'
Shoot
Shoot
Shoot.

(9)
Approach with ball
Say 'Smart boots you've got there
Very smart
Not like these old things of mine
Still, Dad'll get a job soon
Then
When Mum comes out of hospital
And the baby's had his – '
Shoot.

(10)
Approach with ball
Sudden eclipse of sun
(For this you will need to consult astronomical charts)
Goal.

(11)
Approach with ball
Think of something . . .
Goal.



The Footballer's Love of the Ball

Grab the ball and boot it high
See it going up the sky
See it falling down and then
Boot it straight back up again.

Boot it high and boot it higher
Boot it almost out of sight
Send it shooting up at teatime
See it tumbling back at night.

See it rise and see it fall
Earth to sky and ball to ball.



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Team Talk 14

Lads, believe me
You know it
I know it
We are not the best team
In this league
But this lot –
Marcus, are you listening?
This lot
I have to say it –
Are worse!

Believe me
We can beat 'em
What am I saying –
We *are* beating 'em
Yippee!



So this is the situation, lads
Stay calm
Stay focused
Get out there –
Yes, *now* Billy –
Get out there
And whatever it was you were doing –
This is the plan, right Michael?
Right Charles?
Whatever it *was* you were *doing*
Keep doing it.

OK?