



## Ex-Basketball Player

BY JOHN UPDIKE

Pearl Avenue runs past the high-school lot,  
Bends with the trolley tracks, and stops, cut off  
Before it has a chance to go two blocks,  
At Colonel McCombsky Plaza. Berth's Garage  
Is on the corner facing west, and there,  
Most days, you'll find Flick Webb, who helps Berth out.

Flick stands tall among the idiot pumps—  
Five on a side, the old bubble-head style,  
Their rubber elbows hanging loose and low,  
One's nostrils are two S's, and his eyes  
An E and O. And one is squat, without  
A head at all—more of a football type.

Once Flick played for the high-school team, the Wizards.  
He was good: in fact, the best. In '46  
He bucketed three hundred ninety points,  
A county record still. The ball loved Flick.  
I saw him rack up thirty-eight or forty  
In one home game. His hands were like wild birds.

He never learned a trade, he just sells gas,  
Checks oil, and changes flats. Once in a while,  
As a gag, he dribbles an inner tube,  
But most of us remember anyway.  
His hands are fine and nervous on the lug wrench.  
It makes no difference to the lug wrench, though.

Off work, he hangs around Mae's Luncheonette.  
Grease-gray and kind of coiled, he plays pinball,  
Smokes those thin cigars, nurses lemon phosphates.  
Flick seldom says a word to Mae, just nods  
Beyond her face toward bright applauding tiers  
Of Necco Wafers, Nibs, and Juju Beads.

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# Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language

**J Spring**



## **Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language:**

## Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Overview of "**Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language**"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is actually awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve in to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound effect on the souls of its readers.

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