



## 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 McCormsky 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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Source: *Collected Poems, 1953-1993* (1993)

# Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language

**J Elliott**



**Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language:**

Embark on a transformative journey with his captivating work, Discover the Magic in **Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language** . This enlightening ebook, available for download in a convenient PDF format , invites you to explore a world of boundless knowledge. Unleash your intellectual curiosity and discover the power of words as you dive into this riveting creation. Download now and elevate your reading experience to new heights .

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## **Table of Contents Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language**

1. Understanding the eBook Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language User Reviews and Ratings
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language Free and Paid eBooks
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language Public Domain eBooks
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language eBook Subscription Services
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language Compatibility with Devices
  - Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Interactive Elements Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
8. Staying Engaged with Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Setting Reading Goals Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Ex Basketball Player Figurative Language
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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