



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

# Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language

**Allan A. Glatthorn**



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

The Top Books of the Year Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language The year 2023 has witnessed a remarkable surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of bestselling books, exploring the engaging narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Ex Basketball Player Poem Figurative Language : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These bestselling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Pappen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a exceptional and gripping novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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