

American Sports & Games in Poetry

Poetry · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which American poet wrote 'Casey at the Bat,' a famous narrative poem about a baseball game?

- A) Robert Frost
- B) Emily Dickinson
- C) Ernest Thayer**
- D) Walt Whitman

2. The poem 'The Raven' by Edgar Allan Poe, though not about sports, features a bird that might be associated with a game of chance or guessing. What is the bird?

- A) Sparrow
- B) Eagle
- C) Pigeon
- D) Raven**

3. In which sport does the poem 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell, though written by a British author, have a significant competitive element often depicted in stories?

- A) Dragon Racing**
- B) Football
- C) Basketball
- D) Soccer

4. Which popular American sport is referenced in Langston Hughes' poem 'Dream Variations,' which speaks of dancing with dreams and feeling the summer sun?

- A) Baseball**
- B) Basketball
- C) American Football
- D) Volleyball

5. The poem 'The Night Watchman' by Louise Erdrich often touches on themes of Native American life, including traditional games and sports. What animal is central to many Native American games and stories?

- A) Bear
- B) Wolf
- C) Deer
- D) Eagle**

6. In the context of American poetry, what kind of race is often depicted metaphorically in poems about striving and achievement?

- A) Sled Race
- B) Foot Race**
- C) Horse Race
- D) Car Race

7. Which traditional American card game is sometimes alluded to in poems dealing with chance, luck, or social gatherings?

- A) Bridge
- B) Poker**
- C) Solitaire
- D) Go Fish

8. The poems of Billy Collins, an American poet, sometimes use everyday activities as inspiration. Which common game might be found in a poem about a leisurely afternoon?

- A) Chess**
- B) Bowling
- C) Dominoes
- D) Croquet

9. Which Olympic sport, often celebrated in American culture, is sometimes a theme in poems about strength, endurance, and competition?

- A) Curling
- B) Archery
- C) Track and Field**
- D) Figure Skating

10. In poems about childhood in the Americas, what simple game involves kicking a ball back and forth without hands?

- A) Basketball
- B) Soccer**
- C) American Football
- D) Volleyball

11. Which American poet, known for her concise style, might have written a poem about the quiet intensity of a game like chess or checkers?

- A) Maya Angelou
- B) Sylvia Plath
- C) Emily Dickinson**
- D) Gwendolyn Brooks

12. The poem 'A Red, Red Rose' by Robert Burns, though Scottish, has themes of love that could be compared to the passion in American sports rivalries. What does the poet compare his love to?

- A) A winning touchdown
- B) A championship trophy
- C) A summer rose**
- D) A perfect slam dunk