

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In this month of the NBA playoffs, here's a basketball poem by Marija Sanderling, of Wells, who questions the success rate of a solitary shooter on a city court.

### Free Agent

*by Marija Sanderling*

He shoots baskets  
The empty lot  
The netless hoop  
Suspended like a halo  
His daily routine  
Sometimes with others  
Mostly alone  
To shoot and dribble  
Like the players on tv  
He's a free agent  
Who dropped out of school  
So even the gym teacher  
Can't tell him  
If he's any good.  
Three hours a day  
No traveling  
No transitions  
Just free throws and slam dunks  
And all it's gotten him  
Is a 90% success rate  
And a view of the city  
Through the chain-link fence.

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