



# **BOUNCE**



**Let's play POETIC SHOT!**

**1. Create a circle.**

**2. Pass the ball to one another, saying a word that rhymes with the key term on the back of this card.**

**3. The 1<sup>st</sup> person that doesn't have a rhyme MUST dribble in a weaving pattern through each player WITHOUT getting the ball stolen. OR, they can make a shot from their place in the circle to the empty wastebasket; you have 2 tries.**

**4. The game continues until 3 people in a row can't think of a rhyme.**

**5. The last person that can't think of a rhyme, must recite the basketball rule on the underside of this card.**

Created by Jean Darnell

# **Basketball Rule #1**

**In this game of life  
the family is the court  
and the ball is your heart.  
No matter how good you are,  
no matter how down you get,  
always leave  
your heart  
on the floor.**

-Kwame Alexander, *Crossover* (2014)



**FREE**



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# **Basketball Rule #2**

**(random text from Dad)**

**Hustle dig**  
**Grind push**  
**Run fast**  
**Change pivot**  
**Chase pull**  
**Aim Shoot**  
**Work smart**  
**Live smarter**  
**Play hard**  
**Practice harder**



# THROW



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# **Basketball Rule #3**

**Never let anyone  
Lower your goals.  
Others' expectations  
of you are determined  
by their limitations  
of life.**

**The sky is your limit, sons.  
Always shoot  
for the sun  
and you will shine.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*



# PASS



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## **Basketball Rule #4**

**If you miss  
enough of life's  
free throws  
you will pay  
in the end.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*





**HOOP**



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# **Basketball Rule #5**

**When  
you stop  
playing  
your game  
you've already  
lost.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*



**RIM**



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## **Basketball Rule #6**

**A great team  
has a good scorer  
with a teammate  
who's on point  
and ready  
to assist.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*



**SHOT**



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Created by Jean Darnell

# **Basketball Rule #7**

**Rebounding  
is the art  
of anticipating,  
of always being prepared  
to grab it.  
But you can't  
drop the ball.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*



# BLOCK



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# **Basketball Rule #8**

**Sometimes  
you have to  
lean back  
a little  
and  
fade away  
to get  
the best  
shot.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*





# DUNK



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the underside of this card. Created by Jean Darnell

# **Basketball Rule #9**

**When the game is on  
the line,  
don't fear.  
Grab the ball.  
Take it  
to the hoop.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*



# **BUZZER**



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**the underside of this card. Created by Jean Darnell**

# **Basketball Rule #10**

**A loss is inevitable,  
like snow in winter.**

**True champions**

**learn**

**to dance**

**through**

**the storm.**



# BASKET



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## **The Last Shot**

**5...A bolt of lightning on my kicks...**

**The court is SIZZLING**

**My sweat is DRIZZLING**

**Stop all that *quivering***

**Cuz tonight I'm *delivering***

**I'm driving down**

**the lane**

**SLIDING**

**4...Dribbling to the middle, gliding like a  
black eagle.**

**The is RUMBLINGRUSTLING**

**ROARING**

**Take it to the hoop.**

**TAKE IT TO THE HOOP**

**3...2...Watch out, 'cuz I'm about to get D-  
I-R-T-Y**

**with it**

**about to pour FILTHY'S sauce all over  
you.**

**Ohhhh, did you see McNASTY cross over  
you?**

**Now I'm taking you**

**Ankle BREAKING you**

**You're on your knees.**

**Screamin' PLEASE, BABY, PLEASE**

***One...It's a bird, It's a plane. No, it's up  
up uppppppppp.***

**My shot is F L O W I N G, Flying,  
fLuTtErInG OHHHHHH, the chains are  
JINGALING ringaling and**

**SWINGALING**

***Swish.***

**Game/over.**

***-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)***

## **For Dad**

**My free throw flirts with the trim and  
loops, twirls, for a million years,**

**Then drops, and for once, we're up, 49-48,  
five dancers on stage, leaping, jumping**

**so high, so fly,  
eleven seconds from sky**

**A hard drive, a fast break, their best  
player  
slices the tick air toward the goal.**

**His pull-up jumper  
floats through the net,**

**then everything goes slow motion:  
the ball, the player...**

**Coach calls time-out  
with only five seconds to go.**

**I wish the ref could stop  
the clock of my life.**

**Just one more game.  
I think my father is dying.**

**and now I am out of bounds  
when I see a familiar face**

**behind our bench. My brother, Jordan  
Bell, head buried**

**in Sweet Tea, his eyes  
welling with horror.**

**Before I know it, the whistle blows,  
the ball in my hand,**

**the clock running down,  
my tears running faster.**

*-Kwame Alexander, Crossover (2014)*