

OM ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9

NUMBER 3.

SPRING 1987



GREAT NEWS!!!

IBM

IBM Sponsors OM

International Business Machine Corporation (IBM), one of the largest corporations in the world, is awarding to OM Association, Inc. a grant to be used for various projects throughout the coming year. One project will help OM extend its commitment to creativity and problem solving into the mainstream of general education. IBM monies will be used to develop and to distribute a series of curriculum guides which will correlate with next year's long-term problems. The long-term problems will be the basises for guides in mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, and technology education.

One complementary guide will be given with each 1987-1988 regular membership. The guides will be designed so that teachers in schools that have an OM membership, in addition to the OM coaches, can incorporate them as classroom curricular materials. Students motivated by OM long-term problems will have the opportunity to help extend this enjoyment to their regular academic programs.

To develop these curriculum guides, five consultants, each with a specialty in the subject of one problem, will submit various activities, etc. to be included in the guides. Then a team of

curriculum specialists will develop the educational materials for mathematics, science, language arts, social studies and technology for primary, elementary, and secondary schools.

IBM has a well-established commitment to education. Among its many fine projects is the IBM sponsored "I, Leonardo, A Journey of the Mind." This CBS special aired in April of 1983. During the program, IBM gave its commercial time to present a message on education. This portion of the program featured an OM competition narrated by Walter Cronkite. Along with sponsoring this special, IBM funded a Teacher's Guide about Leonardo da Vinci which it mailed to junior high schools, senior high schools, and community colleges. It also provided copies of these guides to elementary schools who were current OM members.

Additional grant monies will be used to improve the Judges' Videotape and to develop a Coaches' Training Videotape. More information will be available about these projects later.

OM Association sends special thanks to Chuck Francis, IBM Director of Corporate Advertising, and his assistant, Clair Insalata, for helping OM to obtain the grant to make these curriculum guides possible. OM accepts IBM's support and is pleased to welcome IBM as its corporate sponsor.

PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS

Additional clarifications may be found in the Fall and the Winter OM Newsletters. For a complete printout of clarifications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Clarifications, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ, 08028.

OMER TO THE RESCUE

- Unless they are riding on the vehicle, OMER and Sidekick must be in the Neighborhood from the time the suitcases are opened until the vehicle is replaced in the suitcases and the suitcases are closed. OMER and Sidekick are free to move anywhere in the competition area prior to the initial opening and after the final closing of the suitcases.
- The distressed person's character must be a human being or assume a human form. (A person IS a person.)
- Props may be placed in the distressed person's or the kitten's spaces for either to sit, lie, or stand on. These props may extend beyond the boundaries. However, they may not touch the floor beyond the boundaries. If they do, a 25 point penalty will be assessed. Other stationary props, i.e. tree or membership sign, may be placed anywhere.
- Boundary lines for penalty #3 refer to the exterior perimeter of the entire course. Interior lines may be crossed by the vehicle wheels.
- Limitation C. #6, second sentence, is intended to penalize anyone riding on the vehicle if he/she touches the floor outside the Neighborhood and also to keep OMER and Sidekick within the Neighborhood whenever they are not riding on the vehicle.
- When the vehicle is replaced in the suitcase/suitcases, the longterm problem solution (scoring F, 1 through F, 11) is completed; however, if time is unexpired, style may continue.
- After the kitten has been rescued and returned to the Neighborhood, it may move about freely.
- In addition to page 5 #20 in the OM PROGRAM HANDBOOK concerning the use of power tools: if the coach feels the team members are incompetent to handle power tools or there are legal implications should someone be injured, team members should not be allowed to use them.
- Penalty #2 will not be assessed while vehicles are in suitcases (that is, before and after long-term scoring).
- Even if suitcase(s) are used as part of the vehicle, it does not have to count in the cost. However, things attached to the suitcase(s)'s interior which are part of the vehicle and not actually the suitcase(s)'s must be counted in the cost.
- Either OMER or Sidekick may perform all of the tasks. However, if one is riding on the vehicle and performing the tasks, the other must remain in the Neighborhood. They may also take turns or ride together if they wish.
- Although OMER, Sidekick and/or the distressed person may not change characters during the performance, they may appear in disguise, such as Superman appearing as Clark Kent, Dr. Jekyll appearing as Mr. Hyde, etc.
- Apparatus or devices which must be contained in the vehicle are those items which are used by OMER and/or Sidekick to perform the tasks.
- "Powered by hand" in Division II means OMER or Sidekick directly touching with their hands the wheels or anything which has a direct connection to the wheels on which the vehicle rides, i.e. peg sticking out from the side of the wheels; tricycle type pedals, etc.

POETIC LICENSE

- Only one parody, satire or allegory in poetic form may be submitted for scoring under Scoring #5. However, the rest of the performance's script is up to the team. Scoring #3 will be based on the total script.
- Fire extinguishers may not be used as part of performance.

CHAIN REACTION

- For the estimated time, anything over the highest time in a point category will be assessed in the next category, i.e. 3.0 seconds
 +20, 3.1 seconds
 +15.
- If the mousetraps are attached to a board, the board must either allow the course markings to show OR have the proper markings on the board.
- The energy derived from the mousetrap must be obtained from its spring.
- The time limit for Chain Reaction is nine minutes.
- See C #4. The tasks as identified as "doing" MUST use only mousetrap energy.
- No outside energy force, such as gravity, may be used to propel the mousemobile. Energy generated by the mousetrap must be used to propel the vehicle.
- As part of the Chain Reaction, ramps, loops, tracks, or delay mechanisms may be used so long as the mousetraps directly complete the tasks, i.e., a ball set in motion by a mousetrap rolls down a ramp and hits the next mousetrap which may then accomplish a task. However, the ball may not roll down the ramp and accomplish the task itself.
- The electrical vehicle may go out-of-bounds without penalty after the balloon is broken or the final attempt to do so is made. If the balloon is broken in the area before the vehicle goes out-ofbounds, points will be awarded.
- Written language may be used on the Chain Reaction diagram.

DECISION STRUCTURE

• The first clarification in the Winter OM should omit the words "height and."

CRO-MAGNON

- If a team chooses to use its own panels rather than those of the tournament director, the panels do not count in the cost.
- A weapon may be classified as a tool, but not as a utensil.
- · Antlers are considered bone.
- Mud and clay would be considered as ceramic materials.
- Spray paint may not be used during the competition.
- Clay or chalk is permitted as the medium for the drawing/painting as long as it is water based and natural.
- The musical instrument in B, #6 may be made of any material.
 It is up to the judges to decide if it is a musical instrument.
 Although the team is not required to play it during the performance, if the judges have any doubts as to whether or not it is a musical instrument, the team may be asked to prove that it is.

1987 WORLD FINALS COACHES' AND JUDGES' COMPETITION OMER 500



- PURIST DIVISION (Coach must solve the problem alone.)
- POETIC LICENSE DIVISION (Coach may get help from his/her team.)
- from his/her team.)

 JUDGES' DIVISION (Will be judged by OM kids.)

A. THE PROBLEM

Your problem is to build an electrically powered vehicle that will compete for speed and accuracy. Your vehicle will race to break a balloon during its journey.

The Spirit of the Problem is to make a vehicle that will break a balloon faster than its opponent's.

B. THE LIMITATIONS

- The vehicle must identify the coach, or judge, membership name (if a coach), and his/her city, state/province, and either Purist Division or Poetic License Division.
- The vehicle must be powered by one or two C or D size batteries.
- 3. The vehicle may not exceed 10" in width at its widest points. It may be any length or height.
- One row of balloons will be placed approximately 500 inches (41' 8") beyond the starting line. A second row will be placed five feet behind the closest row. (See Figure A.)
- If the officials feel that any damage can occur to the floor, your vehicle will not be allowed to compete. The competition site floor is a rubberized covered foam.
- 6. Any balloon may be broken by any vehicle.
- 7. There are no cost limitations.
- The vehicles may not be radio controlled. No strings etc. may be tied to the vehicle and held by the coach/judge to guide it to the finish line.
- Standard wheels, motors and drive systems may be used. However, significant alterations must be made. These parts must be disassembled from the original and be adapted to the coaches'/judges' designs.
- Each vehicle may have no more than three straight pins or needles attached to break the balloons.

C. THE COMPETITION

- Each contestant is on his/her honor to enter the appropriate division. The Purist Division may be entered only if the coach has solved the problem alone. Coaches electing to have their teams help them must enter the Poetic License Division.
- The Judges' Division may only be entered by this year's OM World Finals Judges. In this division "anything goes" regarding the vehicle's design.
- Only contestants within a division may compete against each other. Competitions may not mix groups, i.e. judge entering Purist Division.
- Each division will compete in two parts. In Part I, each qualifying round will select the one finalist from each group competing; Part II will have these finalists compete to determine winners.
- Each divisional winners will receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies.

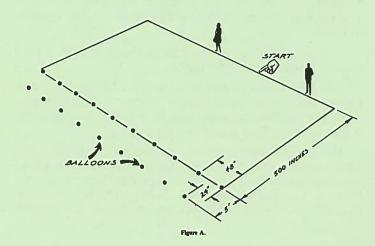
Part I:

- Contestants and their electrical vehicles will take their positions behind the starting line on the floor, approximately 500 inches away from the balloons.
- 2. The entire vehicle must be behind the starting line.
- The coaches may hold their vehicles and release them to begin the journey, but may not push them toward the targets.
- 4. In case of accidental crashes SORRY!
- The first vehicle to break a balloon will be selected to compete in the final round.
- If no balloon is broken, the opponents will try a second time.
- A second row of balloons is 5' behind the first row and alternately spaced between them (See Figure A.). The vehicle's accuracy is rewarded by having the opportunity to break a closer balloon.

Part II:

- The finalists will race against each other. In case of a tie, run-offs will be held until a winner is determined.
- 2. The judges' decisions are final.

There will be no clarifications given for this problem. "You take your chances.!"



OM NOTES

Ways a judge can detect an artificially strengthened structure after the structure breaks include: (a) thumbnail pressure will not allow wood to be easily dented, (b) if a portion of the surface is pulled, it will tend to "peel" off the surface material instead of creating small splinters, (c) a view of the end grain will reveal a solid mass rather than the appearance of small gaps and holes, (d) if split at the end with a knife, wood pieces will not split alone grainline but will tend to snap or break into blunted pieces, and (e) scraping with a sharp edge will reveal residue which will tend to be sticky when wetted.

OM coach Doris Metcalf has written a book of creative problem-solving activities called *Thinking Upside Down*. The book is available from GCT Publishing Company, P.O. Box 6448, Mobile, AL 36660-0448.

The answer from the winter newsletter as to whether or not a two-headed siamese cabbage counted as one or two cruppets: we said it could be one cruppet if there was only one speaking part.

Last summer there were several summer newsletters returned to us because the schools closed and there were no forwarding addresses left for the coaches. If your school closes for this summer, please alert the post office of your forwarding address so your summer newsletter can be delivered.

Newsletters have also been returned to us because the member sent to us the coach's home address for the mailings instead of the school's. Therefore, post office personnel read the membership name and an address which is not the school's and then return the mailing to us. If possible, we prefer to have the school's address.

Frequently high school students find themselves involved in other activities and have difficulty attending OM meetings after school hours. Two solutions reported to us by high school coaches have been to offer the OM Program: 1. through a special projects class (for this class students receive elective credits good toward graduation); or 2. as an activity club which fits into the regularly scheduled club period that meets once a week or every other week.

Lino Gonzalez, principal of North High School in Denver, reports that students at North have the option of attending an OM class instead of a study hall. Thirty students currently attend this class, while students who don't have a study hall have the option of arriving early at school to meet with their teammates. The coach meets with the students after school. Jennie Lewis, the OM teacher, and Arzie Galvez, the assistant principal, originated this novel approach to implementing time for Division III OM students to meet.

Be sure to have pins/buttons available to trade if your team qualifies for World Finals.

Members from unchartered areas applying for World Finals must have applications indicating problem and division to OM headquarters by April 1. Acceptance is by a first to apply from the area basis.

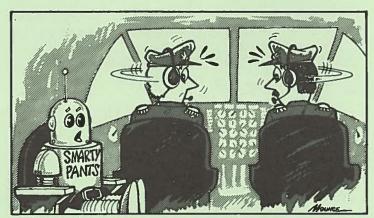
OM will present at the Confratute '87 scheduled July 19-31 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. This will be an Open Forum Session. Other notable presenters include Barbara Clark, Dorothy Sisk, Sandy Kaplan, and Joe Renzulli. To receive a brochure on Confratute '87, contact

Benjamin Skaught, Coordinator, Confratute '87, The University of Connecticut, U-7 231 Glenbrook Road, Storrs Hall, Room 28, Storrs, CT 06268.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has joined as a Division IV member. Jeff Souza, OM Scholarship winner from Turner Maine, is the nucleus to this team.

Karen Rogers, Director of the Master's Gifted Program at the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, has an article in the *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, Fall 86, on "Do the Gifted Think and Learn Differently?" In her concluding review of the research, she comments on programs providing "knowledge acquisition components of intellectual processing. Again, many schools are providing for these types of skills through programs and materials such as 'Olympics of the Mind.'...."

The OM 1986-87 membership, as of February 1, exceeds 5,100. New York leads with the most memberships followed by Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, and Texas.



HEY ... YOU GUYS NEED A HAND FLYING THIS BIRD?

FREQUENT FLIER???

During the summer of 1986, a stewardess testifying at a Federal Aviation Administration hearing told about strange items people wanted to bring on the plane as "carry on" baggage. She mentioned a "Smarty Pants" that rode in the cockpit.

What would you think if, as you board an airplane expecting an uneventful flight, you see a "Smarty Pants" robot sitting in the cockpit? Kind of scary, huh? Well this was exactly the situation before the 1985 World Finals at the University of Maryland.

The McCluer North High School "Smarty Pants" team, coached by Carl Yockum, from Florissant, Missouri was traveling to World Finals aboard a TWA flight to Baltimore. The airline personnel did not have a proper place for the carry-on robot. The flight crew decided to strap "Smarty Pants" into the jumpseat of the cockpit....."May Day, May Day!!!!"

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The following people have joined OM as Associate Members:

Nancy Bondurant Patti Brallier Melissa Bussler Kay Colston Rae Ann Cummings Shelly Hasinoff The Ivan Heffners Louisa Llewellyn Linda McGinn The David Millers Barb & Frank Osinski Elizabeth Patrick Karen Watson

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The OM Summer Enrichment Program for students ages 10 to 15 will be held July 12-18 in the Pocono Mountains at College Misericordia in Dallas, Pennsylvania. The major objective of the program is to provide in-depth OM training opportunities for the residential campers.

Tuition, room, and board for the week-long camp is \$390 per camper. A fifteen percent discount will be given on tuition to those students who enroll in teams of five or more.

Staff members for the camp will be OM coaches who have demonstrated outstanding abilities by consistently producing teams that perform well year after year. Medical personnel and residential counselors also will be on site.

SKILLS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST (Circle):

ATTENTION OM COACHES

Applications and resumes are presently being accepted from experienced OM coaches to instruct for the Summer Enrichment Program. We are looking for individuals who (1) have coached teams at state and/or World Final levels at tournament competition, (2) can create and implement original dynamic group activities, (3) enjoy interacting with multiple teams. Please forward background and experience information to Creative Competitions, Attention: William Reinhart, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

DRAMA

ART

MUSIC

COPY THIS REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION AND RETURN WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Creative Competitions, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ANSWE	ER ALL QUESTIONS. AMOUNT	ENCLOSED
NAME		AGE SEX
STREET		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE NUMBER ()		
PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S NAME		
ADDRESS	CITY	
PHONE NUMBER ()		
YEARS IN OM PROGRAM (if applicab	ole)	
	OCAL REGIONAL Sinclude number of times)	STATE WORLD

COMPUTER

MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF



Pictured from left to right Front Row: Carole, Elisabeth Back Row: Carol, Rene, Sam, Shirley, Elouise

There may be an occasion when you need to call our office. Now you can match the names and faces. Rene, Carol, or Elouise usually answer the phone and can handle most or your over-the-phone problems.

RENE (rhymes with lean) GOODWIN — inputs memberships and corrects any problems associated with membership names; does computer word processing and inputs orders. Rene, originally from Pennsylvania, is married and the mother of two children. She loves to eat and yet wears size three clothing.

CAROL SCHOEPSKE (pronounced Shep ski) — responsibilities include copying services; association mailing requests; insurance information. Carol, a transplant from Montana via Texas, is married and has four children and four grand children. She enjoys tennis, bowling, and snow skiing.

ELOUISE BURT — our newest employee; responsibilities include sending out membership cards and posting payments; opening the mail; collecting scholarship applications. Elouise, a New Jersey native, is married and the mother of three daughters. She loves pretzels and chocolate candy.

SHIRLEY ADAMS — bookkeeper; a swinging single. Shirley, a New Jersey native, has four children and six grand children. She cruises yard sales and flea markets.

CAROLE MICKLUS — OM Executive Director and Chairperson of OM Board of Directors; oversees general operation of OM Association; long-term problem clarifier. Carole, a native of New Jersey, is married to Sam and they have three children. She collects raccoons in any medium and enjoys gourmet dining.

ELISABETH BRADLEY — office manager; product manager; writes OM newsletter; OM Administrative Assistant. Elisabeth, a South Carolina native, is married to Fred, Decision Structure World Problem Captain, and they have one daughter. She enjoys tennis and gardening.

SAM MICKLUS — OM co-founder; in high demand as a workshop presenter; writes most of the long-term and spontaneous problems; President of Creative Competitions.

Nonlinguistical Spontaneous Problem

Frequently coaches, especially novice coaches, have difficulty thinking of spontaneous problems appropriate for the nonlinguistical problems. Our three books have hands-on spontaneous problems but few that are classified as nonlinguistical. To provide an example problem, the following is adapted from "3-D Brainstorming" on page 23 of the *OM Program Handbook* and pages 92-93 of *OM-AHA*. Refer to these two publications for examples of designs for this problem.

(A judge would read the problem. Students would not see this sheet.)

THE PROBLEM:

- 1. Your team has been given the following materials: one piece of paper 8½" x 11", one paper cup, one plastic spoon, one piece of string 12", one napkin, and four toothpicks.
- 2. Your team is to think about the materials and what they could become. After the team decides, it is to make the creation. You may not substitute or use any additional materials.
- 3. You have four minutes to complete the project.
- 4. Each bag has glue and scissors but these are not to be used in the design.

5. Each item counts in your score and multiple uses of the same item count more toward your score. Creativity of the design also counts.

JUDGES ONLY (Would not be read to students)

CRITERIA:

Use of each item-4 points each

- (1) sheet of 81/2" x 11" paper
- (1) plastic spoon
- (1) 12" piece of string
- (1) napkin
- (4) toothpicks (1 point @ toothpick)

TOTAL

Creativity of Design— Maximum 15 pts (Uniqueness of total idea; Unusual uses of provided materials; same item contributing to more than one aspect of design)

TOTAL SCORE _____

1987-88 OM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Your 1986-87 OM membership expires in June. Memberships for 1987-88 begin August 1. The address label on this form reflects how your membership is listed with OM. If there are questions about your membership name, call (609) 881-1603 for a clarification. Please fill out this entire form. Do not put down a school district as your name. Also, the membership name should not be listed

as OM Program. Include the name of your county as it helps us determine who is your regional director. Please also include your 1986-87 membership card # so that we can cross reference our files. For the past five years, the K-12 membership dues have been \$65.00. Rising costs and inflation necessitate 1987-88 dues to be \$90.00.

\$ FOR	OR PURCHASE ORDERMEMBERSHIP(S) and	R #IN THE AMOUNT OF	
Copies of Proble	ems, Problems, Problems (\$10.95 @)	
Copies of Odyss	sey of the Mind (\$12.50 @)		
Copies of OM-A	HA! (\$15.50 @)		
Postage and ha	ndling is \$1.75 for the first book. For	or each additional book, add \$1.00 postage and ha	ındling.
Additional news	letter subscriptions (\$8.00 per year	USA, \$10.00 per year outside USA)	
Additional OM F	Program Handbooks (\$9.00)		
MEMBERON NAME			
MEMBERSHIP NAME (Please justify your membership	name by circling your membership	p category.)	
CIRCLE ONE			
MUST BE			
A. An individual School Name ((In competition may enter on	\$90.00) e team per problem, per division, f	or each division within the school)	
	OF		
B. A Program Name where an i (In competition may enter on	tinerant teacher works with the OM e team per problem, per division, f	Program in two to five schools. (\$90.00) for each division within the school)	
	OF	4	
C. Two buildings served by the (In competition may enter on	same principal. (\$90.00) e team per problem, per division.)		
D. A Community Group. (\$90.00 (In competition may enter eac Association. This membershi		an existing community group, not one formed just to purchase the membership.)	to join the OM
E. A College/University (\$125)			
F. An Associate Membership (In	dividual \$15, Family \$25)		
COACH/CONTACT PERSON: _		1986-87 Membership card #	
SCHOOL ADDRESS OF COAC	H:		
CITYSTA	ATE/PROV ZIP	COUNTY	
COACH'S PH # (AREA CODE)		_SCH PH # (AREA CODE)	

**Foreign country memberships: Outside of North America the membership fee is \$100.00. If the membership is a Department of Defense School and all the membership mailings go to an APO or FPO address, then the membership rate remains \$90.00. For book orders to foreign countries, postage and handling is \$8.00 for the first book and \$4.00 for each additional book.

**Canadian memberships: To expediate your orders, please make certain that your business office submits payment by following one

of these guidelines: 1. Makes the check drawn on a US bank, OR, 2. Pays with a US money order, OR, 3. If payment is drawn on a Canadian bank, make the check payable in US funds.

Please make certain that this form, not a copy, is returned with your check or purchase order. The OM address remains OM Association, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ, 08028.

SITE LOCATIONS FOR WORLD FINALS

OM is constantly seeking college/university locations throughout North America where our World Finals can be held. To make transportation distances as equitable as possible, rotation of the competition sites is necessary. Requirements to host the World Finals include: 1) on-site room and board for a minimum of 6,000 persons, 2) an arena large enough to accommodate all the participants and spectators for the Pep Rally and the Awards Ceremony, 3) an on-site conference coordinator, 4) facilities available large enough for the thirteen long-term sites and thirteen spontaneous rooms and, 5) a location within a close proximity of a major airport.

Central Michigan University is the setting for the 1987 World Finals. The 1988 World Finals will be hosted by the University of Maryland. If there is a location about which we should be made aware, please contact our office.

"FLIGHT OF THE CONDOR"

At the 1986 World Finals, many fortunate attendees heard Dr. Paul MacCready, 1986 OM Lipper Award winner, give a great presentation on his human-powered airplanes. His Gossamer Condor now resides in the Smithsonian's Aerospace Museum. If you are interested in learning more about the Gossamer Condor, the twenty-seven minute film by Ben Shead can be purchased or rented by schools from Direct Cinema, LTD; P.O. Box 69589; West Hollywood, CA 90069-9990. Costs are:

Buy 16mm \$450 Rent 16mm \$40 Buy VHS \$150 Rent VHS \$25

To check the availability of the film before ordering, call the film librarian at 1 (800) FILMS4U or 1(800) 345-6748.

CREATIVITY FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR WORLD FINALS

During the 1987 World Finals scheduled May 28, 29 and 30 at Central Michigan University, we are instigating a new activity in lieu of the warm-up activities and the hat and banner contest. Planning is under way for a creativity festival. Each chartered association will be provided with a booth space where it will offer a creative activity to other attendees. No money may be used. Each world finalist team will be given OM tokens to use at the booths of its team's choosing. The association whose booth has the most tokens at the end of the festival will be awarded a cash prize of \$500. Second place will be awarded \$300 and third place will be awarded \$200.

Decision Structure

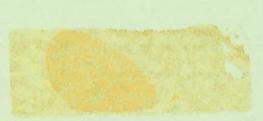
We always have to make it We have to take it But we also have to BREAK IT!!!

Melissa Vensil, third grader from Nashport Elementary School in Nashport, OH, wrote this poem before her entire team switched to "Poetic License" much to the chagrin of their coach. "Everyone seems to be much happier, except me, the coach," writes Dan Lambert. "I am a parent coach with a degree in mechanical engineering—about as far. . . from poetry as one could be. However, as we all know, it's the team's problem to solve, not mine."



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