

Alliteration	Words in close proximity that begin with the same sound	and only saw wayne turner at tournament time
Imagery	Description that uses the senses to create a picture	scribbled superstar in cursive with a fat red pencil and practiced his million dollar smile not his multiplication table
Situational Irony	When what happens is the opposite of what is expected	and instead of writing his spelling words he signed a contract he could barely read
Metaphor	A comparison that directly refers to something being another	reverse lay-up 'that's butter baby'
Onomatopoeia	A word that is the sound it makes	and heard the crowd roar
Hyperbole	Exaggeration for emphasis of effect	with a break yaneck crossover

Personification	Giving human qualities to inanimate objects	hands so small the ball almost dribbled him
Rhyme Scheme	Pattern of rhyme that usually comes at the end of a line	every night under street lights
Simile	Comparing the similarities in two things using like or as	in the bluegrass wildcat jersey hanging like a summer dress
Symbolism	Using a concrete object to represent an abstract idea	and slammed himself on the cover of a box of wheaties

Death By Basketball
By Frank X. Walker

Before and after school
he stood
on a milk crate
eyeballed the mirror
and only saw wayne turner
at tournament time

a third grader
just off the bus
barely four feet
off the ground
he dropped his books
sank a j
from the top of the key
and heard the crowd roar
beat his man off the dribble
with a break yaneck
crossover
and slammed himself
on the cover of a box
of wheaties

he was out there
every night
under a street light
fighting through double picks
talking trash
to imaginary body checks
'you can't hold me fool'
fake right
'this is my planet'
drive left
'is the camera on'
reverse lay-up
'that's butter baby'
finishing with a trey
from downtown, swish!
whogotnext?
more than a little
light in the ass
hands so small
the ball almost dribbled him

he formed his own lay-up line
in the bluegrass
wildcat jersey
hanging like a summer dress

on a court made bald
from daily use
and instead of writing
his spelling words
he signed a contract
he could barely read
inked a commitment
in big block letters
to the NBA
and NIKE
and SPRITE
scribbled superstar in cursive
with a fat red pencil
and practiced his
million dollar smile
not his multiplication table
thinking of how many
chocoloate milks
he could buy
with his signing bonus
or his all-star game
appearance fee
after recess

another shooting
another tragic death
another little genius
who will never test out of a dream
that kills legitimate futures
every night
under street lights
wherever these products
are sold...

