

Who understands cheerleading, but me?

Ashley Willis

1. I am a cheerleader, so I am your biggest fan
2. I love my team with all my heart, so together we will win
3. I practice hard all year, so we can take the crown
4. I am made over for competitions, so I feel like a star
5. I have skin as fair as snow, so fake tan is my paint
6. I use makeup to transform, so the judges see me smile
7. I tease my hair high, so it can touch the heavens
8. I see the competition start, so I feel my nerves rise
9. I hear my coaches praying, so I know we will be okay
10. I step on the mat and hear the music start
11. I jump
12. I stunt
13. I tumble
14. I hear the crowd roar, so everything paid off
15. Who understands me when I say cheer is my happiness?
16. Who understands me when I say this is my passion?

17. We walk to awards, confidence in our eyes
18. Huddled side by side, butterflies in our stomachs
19. Sitting there I replay my memories, feeling nostalgic
20. We worked hour after hour, perfecting our routine
21. Sweating in the heat, water breaks were a dream
22. Injury after injury, we pushed and pushed
23. We never thought of quitting, expecting victory
24. Our coaches were always there for us
25. Our teammates always cared for us
26. We knew we did this for a reason, never disbelieving
27. The frills of cheer are nice, but being just for show
28. It makes you forget what lies underneath
29. We cheerleaders have a bond so strong
30. Cheer taught me how to deal with some parts of life
31. That I may never have known
32. So as I sat at awards, I looked all around
33. Thankful for the opportunities, and I knew
34. The real award was the experiences I had
35. Not a medal I could hold
36. I hear our team called, but now to me place didn't matter
37. Who understands me when I say this is where I belong?
38. Who understands me when I say that cheerleaders are strong?

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Analysis:

Parallelism

- stanza 1 lines 1-9: These are cause and effect, starting with something about me/something I did, ending with my reaction that action.
 - Ex: I...,so...
- stanza 1&2 lines 15,16,37,38: These are questions, asking who understands something that I feel about cheerleading.
 - Ex: Who understands me when I say... ?
- stanza 2 lines 17,20,23,26,29: Every 3 lines I say something that my team as a whole did/felt.
 - Ex: We...

Repetition

- stanza 1 lines 1-9: I...,so...
- stanza 2 lines 17,20,23,26,29: We...

Metaphors

- line 6
- line 18

Similes

- line 4
- line 5