

## **Hard Work Pays Off**

**By: Harrison Cui**

1. They don't see the pre-game nerves,
2. They don't see the mental battles,
3. They don't see the never-ending fire of determination,
4. that, although thrivers fiercely, lacks fuel at moments.
5. They don't see the long, early-morning runs,
6. They don't see the pools of sweat as vast as seas.
7. They don't see the dreaded days, where you feel
8. as low as the darkest depths of the ocean.
9. They don't see the ease in losing your path,
10. They don't see the anguish when progress barely crawls,
11. They don't see.
12. They don't feel the aura of demoralized teammates,
13. They don't feel the sight of disappointment from the coach when a mistake is made,
14. They don't feel the anvil on your chest when defeat occurs.
15. They don't feel the lumbering weights we bestow
16. upon every fraction of body to get that much stronger.
17. They don't feel.
18. They don't see.
19. They can't.
  
20. We know how to drive ourselves.
21. We know how to grasp ambitions and follow dreams.
22. We know the feeling of scoring a touchdown.
23. We know the feeling of adrenaline when crossing the finish line.
24. We know the feeling of executing plays to perfection.
25. We know the sweet tooth of pride,
26. but we comprehend the caliber of staying humble.
27. We know to have the backs of others,
28. while entrusting ours with them.
29. We know how to ignite those that lack the spark to take the shot.
30. We know how to transform pre-existing flames into frenzy infernos.
31. We know where our successes come from,
32. From the tears,
33. From the sweat,
34. From the blood,
35. From the pain,
36. From the hope,
37. From the work
38. We know where our successes come from.

**Repetition:**

Throughout the first stanza I repeated the word “They” as a way of presenting the “They” as nonathletes or outsiders. Then, throughout the second stanza, I used “We” to show connection between all athletes. Finally, I repeated “From the” (lines 32-37) and the phrase “We know where our successes come from” (lines 31 & 38) to provide the sense of realization.

**Parallelism:**

The first parallelism used was in lines: 1, 2, 3, and 4. The use of two short, simple sentences followed by a long, complex sentence was for sentence variation. It was used again in lines 5, 6, 7, and 8. From lines 32-37 I used short sentences to add a more direct meaning.

**Metaphor:**

First metaphor is in line 3. I compared determination to a never-ending fire.

Second metaphor is in line 25. I compared pride to a sweet tooth.

**Simile:**

First simile is in line 6. I compared pools of sweat to vast oceans.

Second simile is in line 7 and 8. I compared feeling low to the darkest depths of the ocean.