

Poem 4: **Cricket on the Field**

Cricket on the Field

The pitch is marked, the stumps stand tall,
The bowler grips the shining ball.
The crowd leans in, the air is tight,
The bat is ready, eyes alight,
A summer game enjoyed by all.

The bowler runs with steady pace,
Determined look upon his face.
The ball spins fast, it cuts the air,
The batter swings without a care,
The game begins — it's now a race.

A crack! The bat has found its sound,
The ball flies high above the ground.
The fielders dash, they chase it down,
Through patches green and dusty brown,
Until at last the ball is found.

The batter runs from crease to crease,
Each stride a burst, they will not cease.
The fielders shout, "Return it fast!"
But every moment seems to last,
As cheers erupt and will not cease.

A catch is taken near the rope,
The crowd reacts with shock and hope.
The bowler smiles, the batter sighs,
Both knowing sport has no disguise —
It's skill and luck in equal scope.

The sun beats down, the shadows grow,
The scoreboard ticks, the numbers show.
Each player dreams of making more,
Of chasing runs, of breaking score,
While winds across the oval blow.

The spinner steps with cunning plan,
A tricky ball that spins and ran.
It bounces odd, the batter's stuck,
The wicket falls — a stroke of luck!
And shouts ring out from every fan.

The drinks break comes, they rest a while,
And swap their stories with a smile.
The batters talk of runs they seek,
The bowlers plot their moves this week,
While coaches nod in patient style.

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The final overs soon draw near,
The crowd is loud, they chant and cheer.
The batters swing with all their might,
The fielders dive, they will not fight,
Against the joy of cricket here.

The game is done, they shake each hand,
No matter loss or where they stand.
For cricket's more than runs and fame,
It's friendship, teamwork, love of game,
And summer days across the land.

1. **Comprehensive Glossary**

Word	Meaning
Pitch	The rectangular strip in the middle of a cricket field where the game is played
Stumps	The three wooden posts at each end of the pitch
Crease	The marked line batters stand behind in cricket
Rope	The boundary line around the field
Spinner	A bowler who spins the ball rather than bowling it fast
Overs	Sets of six balls bowled from one end
Wicket	Can mean the stumps or the dismissal of a batter
Oval	Another word for a cricket ground
Scoreboard	A board showing the score of the game
Over	A group of six deliveries bowled by one bowler

2. Line-by-Line Explanation of Meaning

Each stanza captures a moment in a cricket match:

- **Stanza 1–2:** Setting the scene, players ready, crowd anticipating, first deliveries bowled.
 - **Stanza 3–4:** Excitement as the ball is hit, fielders chase, batters run for points.
 - **Stanza 5–6:** Dismissal of a batter, tension between skill and luck, the summer atmosphere.
 - **Stanza 7–8:** Skill of spin bowling, short break for rest, teamwork discussions.
 - **Stanza 9–10:** Closing overs bring excitement, match ends with handshakes and sportsmanship.
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3. Line-by-Line Annotation of Language Techniques

- “stumps stand tall” — personification
- “air is tight” — metaphor for tension
- “cuts the air” — imagery
- “crack! The bat” — onomatopoeia
- “patches green and dusty brown” — colour contrast imagery
- “runs from crease to crease” — repetition for rhythm
- “skill and luck in equal scope” — balance of contrasting ideas
- “winds across the oval blow” — personification
- “tricky ball that spins and ran” — metaphorical movement
- “friendship, teamwork, love of game” — listing for emphasis

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4. 10 Multiple Choice Questions

1. What stands tall on the pitch?
 - a) Batters
 - b) Stumps
 - c) Fielders
 - d) Chairs
2. What does the bowler grip?
 - a) Bat
 - b) Ball
 - c) Rope
 - d) Gloves
3. What happens when the bat hits the ball high?
 - a) Fielders chase it
 - b) Bowler catches it
 - c) It is ignored
 - d) Umpire stops the game
4. What does the batter do between the creases?
 - a) Bowl
 - b) Run
 - c) Field
 - d) Rest
5. What does the spinner do to the ball?
 - a) Hits it
 - b) Spins it
 - c) Catches it
 - d) Throws it up
6. What happens during a drinks break?
 - a) Play continues
 - b) Players rest and talk
 - c) Crowd leaves
 - d) Scoreboard resets
7. How many overs are left at the end?
 - a) A few
 - b) None
 - c) Many
 - d) All
8. What do players do after the match ends?
 - a) Leave without speaking
 - b) Shake hands
 - c) Argue
 - d) Start another game

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9. The phrase “air is tight” means:
- a) No oxygen
 - b) A tense atmosphere
 - c) Strong wind
 - d) Closed stadium
10. What is cricket “more than” in the last stanza?
- a) Fame and money
 - b) Runs and fame
 - c) Rules and laws
 - d) Balls and bats

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5. 10 Comprehension Questions

1. What two things start the game?

2. How does the crowd react at the start?

3. What does “cuts the air” describe?

4. Why do fielders chase the ball?

5. What happens when a catch is taken near the rope?

6. How is cricket both skill and luck?

7. What does the spinner aim to do?

8. What is discussed during the drinks break?

9. Why are the final overs exciting?

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10. What is the main message of the final stanza?

6. Analytical Cloze Passage

Word Bank: *stumps, ball, runs, rope, bowler, bat, fielders, crease, spinner, handshake*

The (1) _____ stand in the pitch as the game begins. The (2) _____ grips the shiny (3) _____ and sends it flying. The (4) _____ swing the (5) _____ to score (6) _____, while the (7) _____ chase the ball before it reaches the (8) _____. The (9) _____ tricks the batter with spin, and at the end, each player shares a (10) _____ in good sportsmanship.