Bounce. Bounce. Bounce. My toes are on the foul line and my eyes zero in on the basket. I need to get this last free throw if I want my team to win. My heart is pounding. Everyone will be so proud of me if I get the winning shot...And everyone will be disappointed if I don't. I feel like the whole world is on my shoulders.

"Okay, okay. Relax," I tell myself as I roll my shoulders. "Shake it out. You've made this shot a thousand times. You got this." I close my eyes for just a moment and take a deep breath. Refocused, I shoot...and I score! Yesss! We won! My team swarms around me to give me a hug. We won! We finally won!

I am so proud of myself and my team because we have worked so hard. It was not easy to balance school, home life, and the team all at the same time. Sometimes I felt like there were not enough hours in the day to get everything done. But it is all worth it in the end. To win this game is so rewarding, and I had so much fun playing; I always do.

It's awesome to see me and all my teammates (who have become some of my best friends) come together as a team. Not always does it work out in our favor. We have lost some games that made our hearts break, but when we can pull out a win, it feels so good.

THING

for us to play...