By May Swenson

It’s about the ball,
the bat,
and the mitt.
Ball hits bat, or it
hits mitt.
Bat doesn’t hit ball,
bat meets it.
Ball bounces off bat, flies
air, or thuds
ground (dud)
or it fits mitt.
Bat waits for ball
to mate.
Ball hates to take bat’s
bait. Ball flirts, bat’s
late, don’t keep the date.
Ball goes in (thwack) to mitt,
and goes out (thwack) back
to mitt.

It’s about Ball fits
the ball, mitt, but
not all the time.
Sometimes ball gets hit
(pow) when bat
meets it, and sails
to a place
where mitt has to quit
in disgrace.
That’s about the bases
loaded, about 40,000
fans exploded.

It’s about the ball,
the bat,
the mitt,
and the fans.
It’s done on a diamond,
and for fun.
It’s about home, and it’s
about run.


Source: New and Selected Things Taking Place (Little Brown and Company, 1978)