

**ALONE AT THE PLATE**  
**[Inside the front cover of the book, You Can**  
**Teach Hitting, by Dusty Baker]**

**He pulls on a helmet, picks up the bat,  
and walks to the plate, "gotta hit and that's that."**

**The crowd starts to yell, the game's on the line,  
last inning, two outs, the score's nine to nine.**

**Dad yells, "Go get it," Mom wrings her hands,  
Coach hollers, "hit it," but alone there he stands.**

**Heroes are made in seconds such as this,  
but he's just a little boy, what if he should miss ??  
Years after the game's ended and he's little no more,  
will he remember the outcome or even the score ??**

**No he'll have forgotten if he was out, hit or a run,  
he'll only look back on his friends and the fun.**

**So cheer this boy on, alone with his fate,  
help him remember with fondness this stand at the plate.**

**Spend your time wisely and help in his quest  
to be a hitter with confidence and always do his best.  
And when the game's over, this boy can stand tall,  
for you've helped him prepare to give it his all!!**