Black Out Poem

- Choose an article, a page from a book, a page from a website, a newspaper—anything that looks interesting to you, either the topic is interesting or the print is visually interesting, and look for words and phrases that appeal to you.
- Once you begin to narrow things down, black out the unwanted words using a marker. The result will be a unique blackout poem using words and phrases from the original article.
- More points will be given to students who make their blackout poems visually appealing.

Cento Poem
Try using book titles to create a unique poem--a cento book spine poem.
Found Poem

A “found poem” is created using only words, phrases, or quotations that have been selected and rearranged from another text. To create a found poem, choose language that is particularly meaningful or interesting and organize the language around a theme or message. Take time to read over the passage several times to determine a clear understanding of the theme.

Procedure

First:
Select a passage either from the novel or from any of the material you have researched. Look for a passage that is particularly descriptive with imagery or figurative language or one that gives lots of information about a character, a place, or an event.

Then:
1. Create a List of Words, Phrases, and Quotations
Review a text, or multiple texts, related to the unit of study. Either make a copy of the text so that you can highlight key words, phrases, or quotations, or simply record words, phrases, or quotations that are particularly interesting or meaningful. Identify between 15 and 20 different words or phrases so that you have plenty of ideas from which to choose when composing your poem.

2. Identify a Theme and Message
Identify a theme (the message) topic that represents some or all of the language selected. A theme topic is a broad concept such as “obedience” or “loyalty.” A theme statement is a specific idea you would like to express about this theme topic. For example, “decision making” is a theme. A theme statement about decision making expressed by humanitarian Carl Wilkens is, “Every situation is an opportunity and every opportunity demands a decision.” Often it is helpful to do this step with a partner. Trade lists and describe the themes or main ideas you see in your partner’s list.

3. Select Additional Language
Found poems only use words that have been collected from other sources, but you can add transitional words to make the ideas flow smoothly. Once you have selected a theme and thought about a theme statement, you may need to review the materials again to collect additional language.

4. Compose a Poem
You are now ready to rearrange the language selected to create your poem. One approach to this task is to write all of the words and phrases on slips of paper, so that you can move the slips around until you are satisfied with the poem. You can repeat words or phrases as often as you like. You do not need to use all of the words or phrases previously selected.
Adapted from Facing History and Ourselves. <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/found-poems>