

Poetry WORKSHEET

April is National Poetry Month!

BLACKOUT POETRY

What is it?

Blackout poetry is a kind of found poetry made by blacking out most of the words on a page and leaving just a few words - the words you leave are your poem.

Your poem doesn't have to be related to the story on the page - think of the words as raw materials.

What do you do?

1. Ask the librarian for a page from one of the discarded books or magazines. Obviously, don't do this project with a regular library book!

2. Skim over the page (don't worry about reading it carefully) and think about words that interest you.

3. When you're ready to make your poem, draw a box around each word you want to keep.

4. Use a Sharpie or marker to cross out all the words that aren't part of your poem. Ta-da! You're a poet.

Tip:

Be careful not to get the ink on the table, other books, yourself, etc.

Make sure you know what you want to do before you start crossing things out - you can't undo it. You might want to use a pencil to mark the words you want to keep while you're planning your poem.

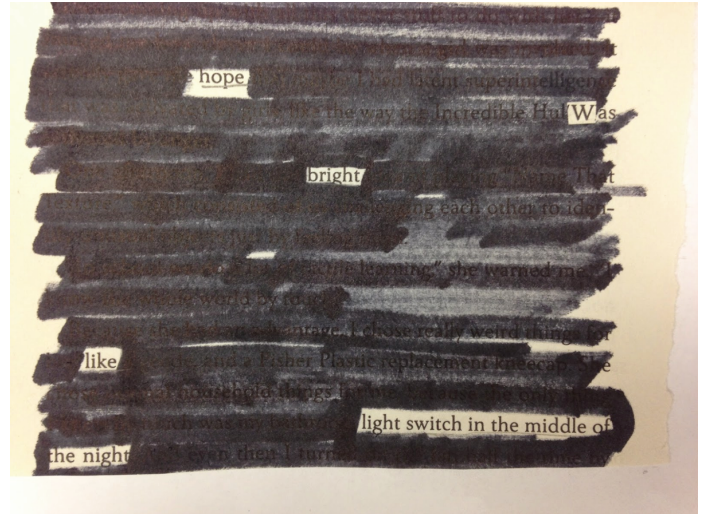
Variations:

Try drawing a picture over the words you're not using instead of crossing them out. Or experiment with using color instead of black to block out the unused words.

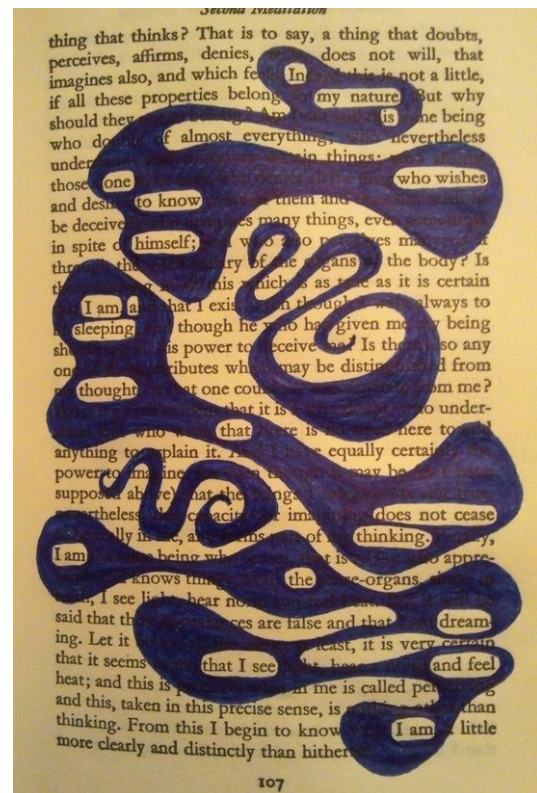
Resources:

<http://www.darienlibrary.org/children/write-blackout-poem>

<http://austinkleon.com>



Source: Love, Teach Blog



Source: Nest of Roses

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BOOK SPINE POETRY

What is it?

Book spine poems are made by stacking books so the titles on their spines read like the lines of a poem.

Your poem can be serious or funny, and doesn't have to be related to the subjects of the books you choose.

What do you do?

1. Pick 3-6 books. Either pick up the actual books, or write down their titles on a piece of paper. They can be your favorite books or just ones with interesting titles.
2. Stack up the books (or arrange the titles you've written down) so the titles on the spines create a poem.
3. Take a picture of the poem or write down your finished poem.
4. If you used actual books, be sure to put them back exactly where they came from or leave them on the shelving cart so the library staff can put them away.

Tip:

Look for one book title that interests you in some way and then find other books that support your theme.

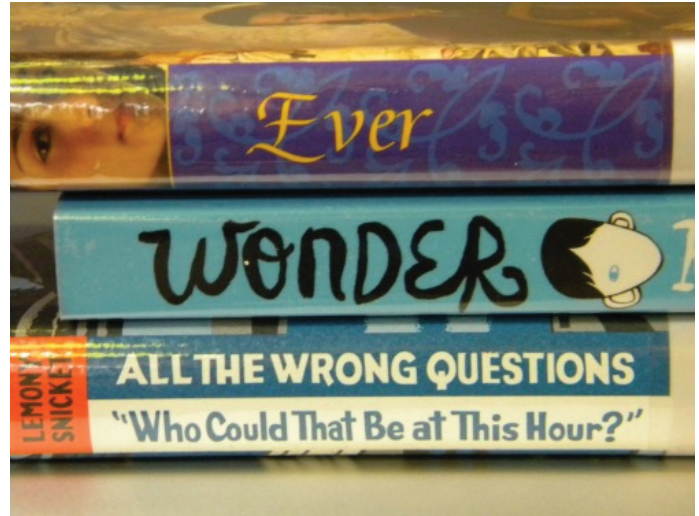
Variations:

Try making a poem from a list of song or movie titles, or from headlines cut from a magazine or newspaper at home (make sure you ask permission before cutting anything up!).

Resources:

<http://www.poetry4kids.com/blog/news/how-to-create-book-spine-poetry/>

<http://100scopenotes.com/2013/04/02/2013-book-spine-poem-gallery/>



Source: The Brainstorm Plus



Source: 100scopenotes.com



Source: The View From Here

FOUND POETRY

What is it?

Found poetry takes texts that are not poetic -- cookbooks, newspapers, textbooks, dictionaries, signs, menus, your favorite YA novel (try Googling "Hunger Games found poem"), tax forms -- and finds poetry in these texts by selecting and re-arranging words and phrases.

Some found poetry uses the words exactly as they are written but adds line breaks to make it read like poetry (like the Lost Cat sign); other found poems break the words apart and use them in new ways (like the poem made from a newspaper science article).

What do you do?

1. Read over the book or material you're using as your source. As you read, write down words and phrases that interest you on a separate piece of paper in the order you find them. Look for interesting and descriptive words. Fifty words is a good goal.
2. Cross out any unnecessary words. Try to eliminate about half the words you originally wrote down.
3. Rewrite the remaining words, in the same order, but now you can space them or add punctuation to make it read like a poem.

Tips:

- * Read your poem aloud as you go to test the rhythm.
- * Line breaks add pauses and therefore drama.
- * Make sure you write down what source you used so you can credit the original author.

Variations:

See our Blackout Poetry worksheet for another way to create and present found poems.

Resources:

NY Times Annual Found Poetry Student Challenge:
<http://nyti.ms/1GvCK2R>



Source: Author Amok

Reborn

By Olivia B.

Space is crackling with tantalizing cosmic winds
Mysterious undiscovered galaxies, teasing and
eluding
 obsessed scientists
Astronomical monsters collide and annihilate each
 other
An unexplained interstellar voyage, missing
Halos of massive stars colliding
Silence, darkness
Then the universe is whispering
Still not sure what it is saying
Slowly tugging and pulling together a new physical
 identity

Based on this article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/04/science/space/new-clues-to-the-mystery-of-dark-matter.html>

Source: NY Times 5th Annual Found Poetry Contest 2014