

FOUND POETRY

LESSON 6

4TH GRADE

MRS. SEFCHIK

MATERIALS

FOR THIS LESSON

MATERIALS



OBJECTIVES

OF THIS LESSON

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To learn about, discuss, and write found poems. To show how students can “find” poetry everywhere, including in an already written text. Students will create an erasure poem.

What is Found Poetry?

Using words and phrase from other sources to create original work.

Types of Found Poetry:

Erasure/Blackout, Cento, Free Form Remix, Cut-Up Collage

Sources of Found Poetry

Books. Poems. Magazines. Speeches. Newspapers. Billboards. Song titles + lyrics.

(ALWAYS name your source.)

Found Poetry Examples

was astounded. The Prefect appeared abnormally dumb-stricken. For some minutes he stared and motionless, looking incredulously at his open mouth, and eyes that seemed great black sockets, then, apparently recovering himself in some measure, he seized a pen, and after several pauses and vacant stares, finally filled up and signed a check for fifty thousand francs, and handed it across the table to Dupin. The latter examined it carefully and deposited it in his pocket-book, then, unlocking an extraordinary lock, took there a letter and gave it to the Prefect. This functionary clasped it in a perfect agony of joy, opened it with a trembling hand, cast a rapid glance at its contents, and then, scrambling and struggling to the door, rushed at length unceremoniously from the room and there he disappeared, without having uttered a syllable since Dupin had requested him to fill up the check. When he had gone, my friend entered into some explanations. "The Parisian police," he said, "are exceedingly able in their way. They are persevering, ingenious, cunning, and thoroughly versed in the knowledge which their duties seem chiefly to demand. Thus, when G... detailed to us his mode of searching the premises at the Hotel D... I felt entire confidence in his having made a satisfactory investigation—so far as his labors extended. "So far as his labors extended?" said I. "Yes," said Dupin, "the measures adopted were not only the best of their kind, but carried out to absolute perfection. The letter had been deposited in the name of... or... search these fellows would, beyond a question, have found it. I merely laughed, but he seemed quite serious in all that he said. The measures, then, he continued, were of their kind, and well executed, their defect, however, being impracticable in the case, and to the way... A certain... of highly ingenious resources are, with the Prefect, a sort of Procureur general, to which he forcibly adapts his designs, but he perpetually errs by being too deep or too shallow for the matter in hand, and many a schoolboy is a better reasoner than he. I knew one about eight years of age, whose success at guessing in the game of even and odd attracted universal admiration. This game is simple, and is played with marbles. One player holds in his hand a number of small toys, and demands of another whether that number is even or odd. If the guess is right, the guesser wins one, if wrong the loser one. The boy to whom I allude won all the marbles of the school. Of course he had some principle of

Poem Source:
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving

ENCHANTMENT

while, and then finally shifted over to Ann? (Boris Pasternak described this phenomenon beautifully, when he wrote, "No genuine book has a first page. Like the rustling of the forest, it is begotten God knows where, and it grows and it rolls, arousing the dense wilds of the forest until suddenly... it begins to speak with all the treetops at once.")

All I know for certain is that this novel really wanted to be written, and it didn't stop its rolling... until it finally found the author who was... willing to take it on—not later, not someday, not in a few years, not when times get better, and when life becomes easier, but right now.

So that became the story.

Which left me with nothing but a dazzled heart, and the sense that I live in a most remarkable world, a world with mysteries. It all called to mind the British physicist Sir Arthur Eddington's memorable explanation of how the universe works: "Something unknown is doing we don't know what."

But the best part is I don't need to know what I don't need to understand what it all means, or where ideas are originally conceived, or why creativity plays out as unpredictably as it does. I don't need to know why I am sometimes able to converse freely with inspiration.

77

From Bro Magic - Elizabeth Gilbert

MAGIC

wrote

too soon

Early days,

taking

only

time

SOURCE: Bro MAGIC by ELIZABETH GILBERT

VOCABULARY

VOCABULARY



History of Found Poetry

Erasure:

First one was created by Doris Cross in 1965 with her “Dictionary Columns.”

Present day – Austin Kleon (writer and artist)

Cut-Up Collage:

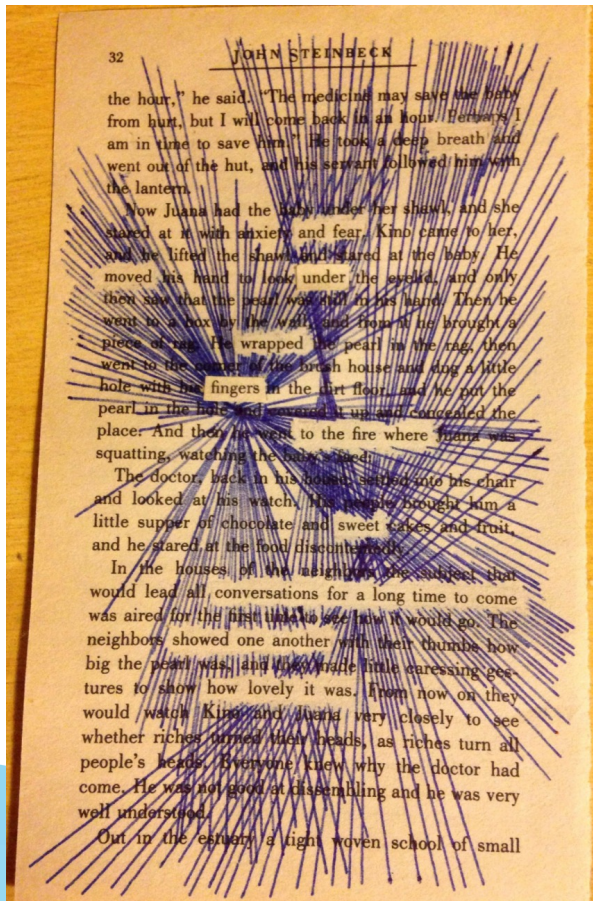
1883 Lewis Carroll; 1920s Dada artists and writers; 1959 Brion Gysin
1960s William Burroughs; 1977 William Burroughs + Brion Gysin

Cento:

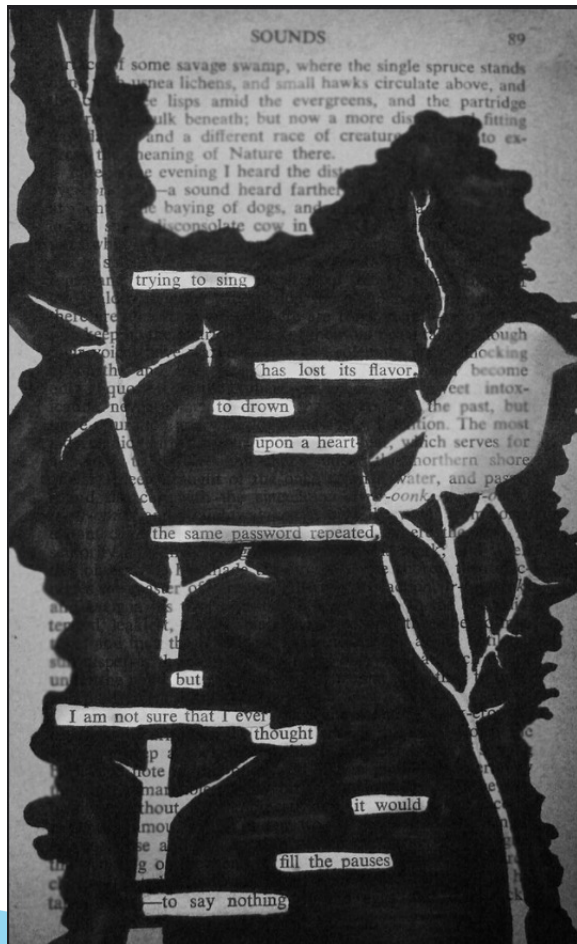
3rd or 4th century A.D.

First Free Form Remix

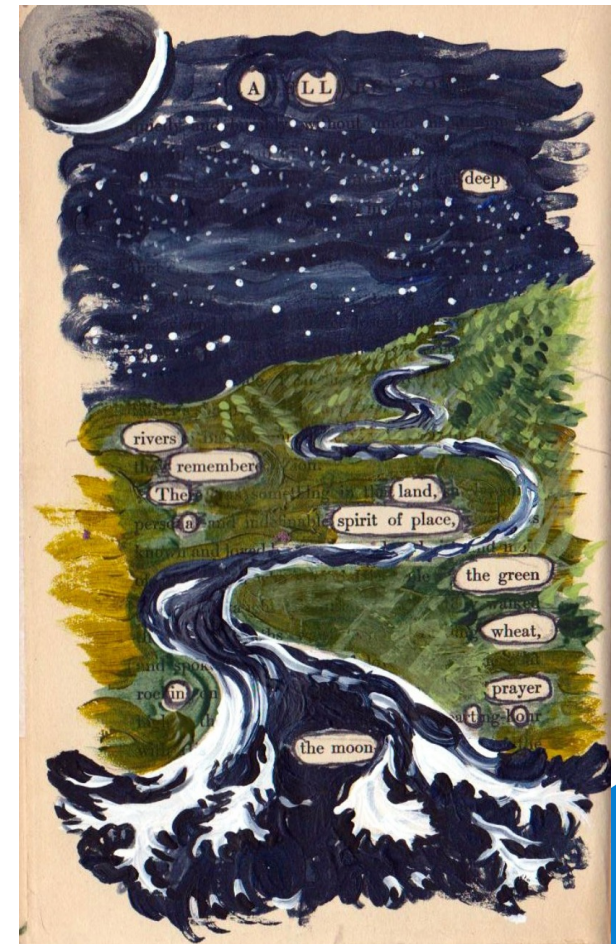
Found Poetry Examples



Source: Sounds – blackout poetry, Craftykrafter, Pinterest/Flickr



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/raincatsndogs>



Metonymicalpen.com, [A Conversation with Henry: New Erasures \(2\)](#)

INSTRUCTIONS

Writing Time, Step

1



Use a pencil first to underline the words you want to use.

Don't be afraid to erase until you get just the right words you want to form your found poem.

A Note from the Hero

There were dragons when I was a boy.

There were great, grim, sky dragons that nested on the cliff tops like gigantic scary birds. Little, brown, scuttly dragons that hunted down the mice and rats in well-organized packs. Preposterously huge Sea Dragons that were twenty times as big as the Big Blue Whale and who killed for the fun of it.

You will have to take my word for it, for the dragons are disappearing so fast they may soon become extinct.

Nobody knows what is happening. They are crawling back into the sea from whence they came, leaving not a bone, not a fang, in the earth for the men of the future to remember them by.

So, in order that these amazing creatures should not be forgotten, I will tell this true story from my childhood.

I was not the sort of boy who could train a dragon with a mere lifting of an eyebrow. I was not a natural at the Heroism business. I had to work at it. This is the story of becoming a Hero the Hard Way.

Source: "How to Train Your Dragon"
1 by Cressida Cowell

LESSON SIX DAY 2

FINISH FOUND POEMS



Writing Time, Step

1



Use a pencil first to underline the words you want to use.

Don't be afraid to erase until you get just the right words you want to form your found poem.

A Note from the Hero

There were dragons when I was a boy.

There were great, grim, sky dragons that nested on the cliff tops like gigantic scary birds. Little, brown, scuttly dragons that hunted down the mice and rats in well-organized packs. Preposterously huge Sea Dragons that were twenty times as big as the Big Blue Whale and who killed for the fun of it.

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Writing Time, Step

2



Then, outline
your selected
words
with marker.

A **Note** from the Hero

There were dragons when I **was** a boy.

There were great, grim, **sky** dragons that nested on the cliff tops like gigantic scary birds. Little, brown, scuttly dragons that hunted down the mice and rats in well-organized packs. Preposterously huge Sea Dragons that were **twenty times as big as** the Big Blue Whale and who killed for the fun of it.

You will have to take **my word** for **it**, for the dragons are disappearing so fast they may soon become extinct.

Nobody **knows** what is happening. They are crawling back into the sea from whence they came, **leaving** not a bone, not a fang, in the earth for the men of the **future** to remember them by.

So, **in order** that these amazing creatures should not be forgotten, I will tell **this** true story from my childhood.

I was not the sort of boy who could train a dragon with a mere lifting of an eyebrow. I **was** not a **natural** at the Heroism business. I had to **work** at it.

This is the story of **becoming** a Hero **the** **Hard** **Way**.

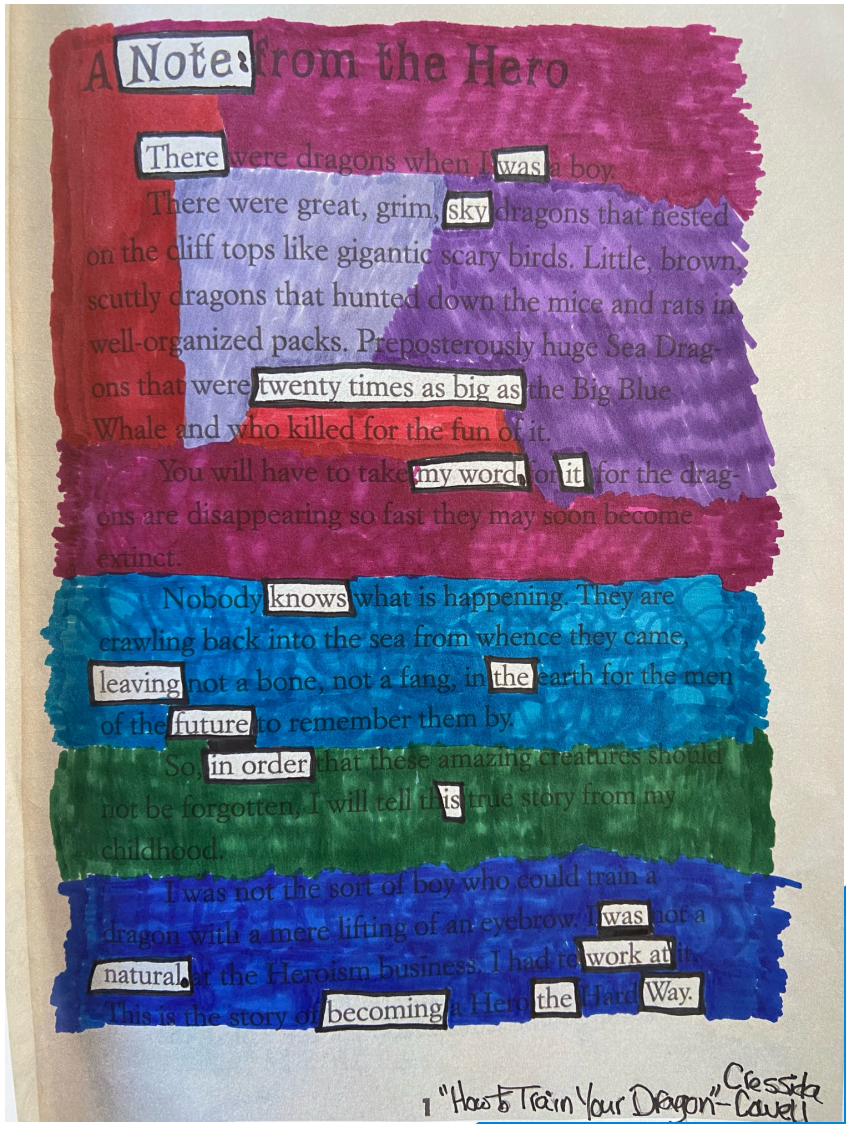
Source: "How to Train Your Dragon"
1 by Cressida Cowell

Writing Time, Step

3



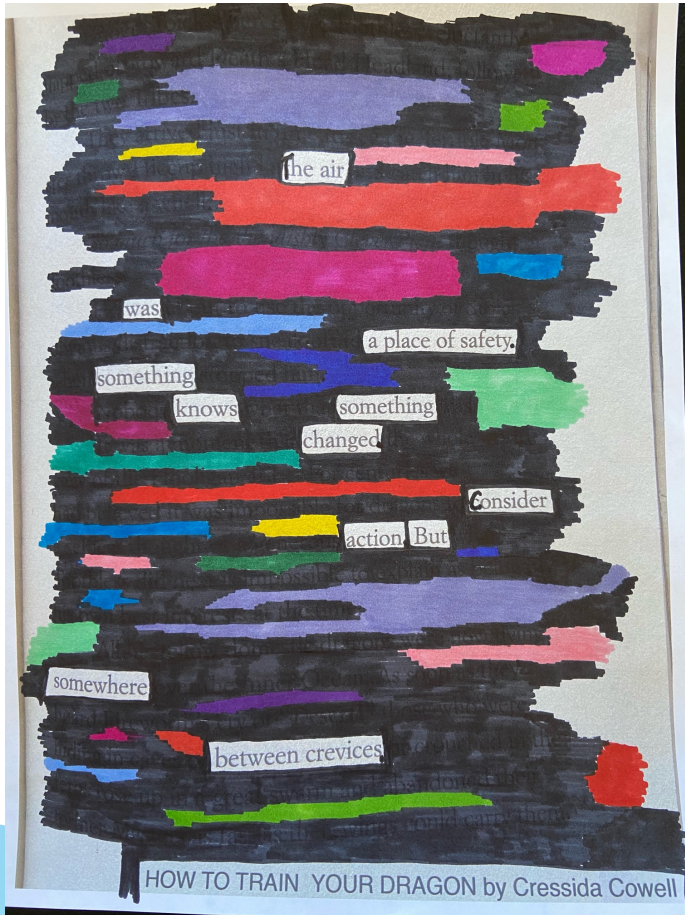
Once you have your poem the way you want it, start “erasing” the remaining text by using a marker.



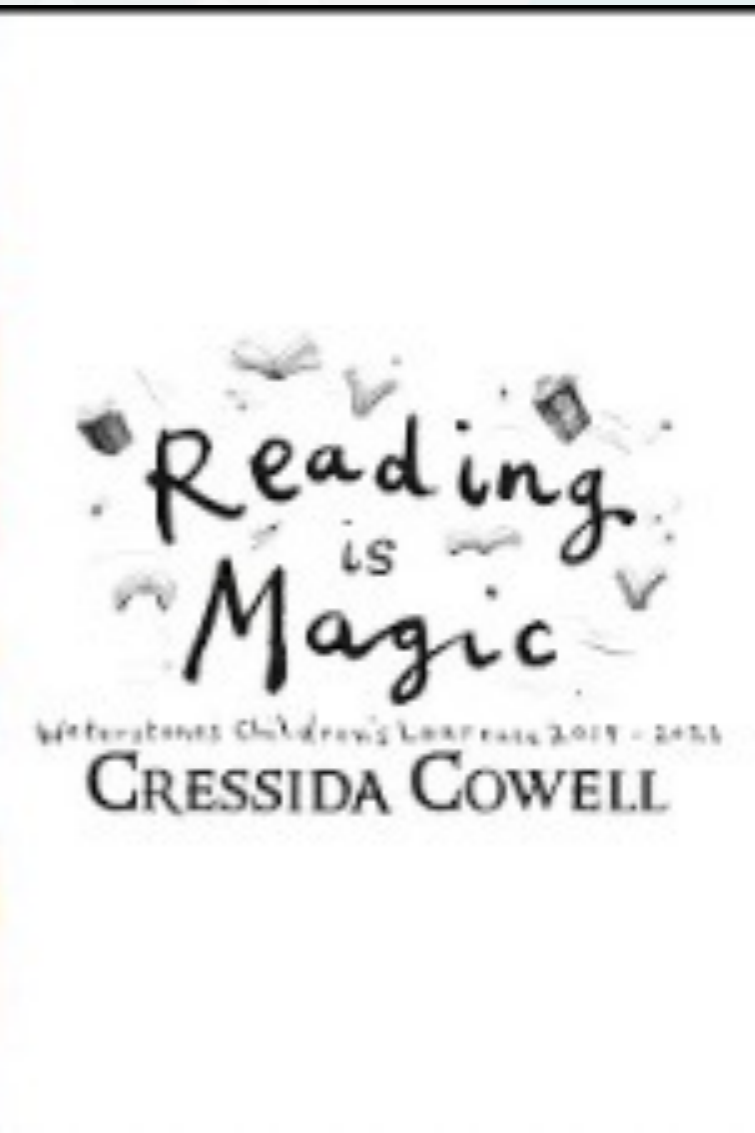
POEM SHARING!

Poems written during class.

Mrs. Leas



Cressida Cowell reading prologue of “How to Train Your Dragon.”(0 to 1:00; 2:30 to 4:05)



What did you learn about
Found Poetry?

L₁

E₁

A₁

R₁

N₁

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- **Write a found poem using the titles of your favorite songs.**
- **Photocopy a page of your favorite book at home and create an erasure poem with it.**
 - **Cut out words and phrases from a magazine or newspaper and create a poem from them.**
- **Check out the youth page of the Poetry Foundation's web site to read and listen to more poetry!**

REFERENCES

REFERENCES

- Videos courtesy YouTube
- Images from Pexels and Pixabay
- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/harriet-books/2014/04/who-is-doris-cross>
- <http://www.foundpoetryreview.com/>
- <https://poetryschool.com/assets/uploads/2016/01/Linda-Black-The-Cento.pdf>
- [https://www.pinterest.es/pin/12807180160375740/?amp_client_id=CLIENT_ID\(\)&mweb_unauth_id=&simplified=true](https://www.pinterest.es/pin/12807180160375740/?amp_client_id=CLIENT_ID()&mweb_unauth_id=&simplified=true)
- <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-blackout-poetry-and-erasure-poetry#what-is-erasure-poetry>
- <https://tumblr.austinkleon.com/post/166821509471>