

Poetry Hiding in an Existing Text

- 1 Creativity can be healing in difficult times, but it's not always easy to tap into those creative juices. Sometimes you're just too overwhelmed and exhausted to write or create. In those times, turning to found poetry – a style of poetry in which you write something new using only what you can find in a text written by someone else – can help.
- 2 Sometimes when it's hard to write, that limitation gives you a place to start. It's a bit like a painter working with a limited palette: You have both a solid foundation from which to begin your poem, and the challenge to create something using only what you have in front of you.
- 3 Blackout poetry eliminates the words around a poem you've found within the text to present both a piece of literature and a stark image of that literature on the same page.
- 4 You may be wondering: Am I really writing a poem if I'm using someone else's work to start? Yes! Writing a good erasure poem requires the poet to intervene on the source text. This means that your poem will say something different than the source text. It will be representative of your voice and your narrative.
- 5 **39** : In an erasure poem, you can only use the words that appear in the article you've chosen, and you have to use them in the order they appear. How you erase the words around your poem is up to you.



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