

Grab & Go Craft Kits for Adults

Blackout Poetry

April is National Poetry Month and the perfect time to explore the power of words and language. But if you are struggling to find the right words, why not use someone else's? Blackout poetry is when you take a written piece of text from a book, newspaper, or magazine and redact words, in order to come up with your very own poetry. Your kit includes pages from *Pride and Prejudice* plus a black permanent marker. To create your poems, feel free to use them, pages from your own books, articles cut from newspapers, or anything else you have lying around your home.

Creating a blackout poem involves steps that are all about deconstruction, then reconstruction. Your poem can be artistic, simple, serious, or nonsensical. All of the words are already there on the page, so let the randomness be part of the fun.

The New York Times has created an interactive generator that allows readers to create blackout poetry from select articles. [Searching for Poetry in Prose—The New York Times](#)

1. Scan the page for words that stand out – interesting words or ones that have meaning to you. Use a pencil to mark them lightly.
2. Now reread the page of text and look for words that could link the marked words together. Lightly mark possible connecting words.
3. List all of the circled words on a separate piece of paper in the order that they appear on the page of the text from top to bottom, left to right.
4. Read through all the words you have selected and piece them together to create the lines of your poem. When choosing your final words, you may eliminate parts of words, especially endings, or go back to the original text to find more words.
5. Consider if you want to add an illustration. Then, black out any unwanted words to create your final poem.

Below are examples of blackout poetry all of which used the same original page of text.

But the Tin Woodman would not let her do this. "We must hurry and get back to the road of yellow brick before dark," he said; and the Scarecrow agreed with him. So they kept walking until Dorothy could stand no longer. Her eyes closed in spite of herself and she forgot where she was and fell among the poppies, fast asleep.

"What shall we do?" asked the Tin Woodman. "If we leave her here she will die," said the Lion. "The smell of the flowers is killing us all. I myself can scarcely keep my eyes open and the dog is asleep already."

It was true; Toto had fallen down beside his little mistress. But the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman, not being made of flesh, were not troubled by the scent of the flowers.

"Run fast," said the Scarecrow to the Lion, "and get out of this deadly flowerbed as soon as you can. We will bring the little girl with us, but if you should fall asleep you are too big to be carried."

So the Lion aroused himself and bounded forward as fast as he could go. In a moment he was out of sight.

"Let us make a chair with our hands, and carry her," said the Scarecrow. So they picked up Toto and put the dog in Dorothy's lap, and then they made a chair with their hands for the seat and their arms for the arms and

Hurry by Candace Shultz

THE WIZARD OF OZ
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