

Blackout Poetry

Holidays

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807 - 1882

The holiest of all holidays are those
Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;
The secret anniversaries of the heart,
When the full river of feeling overflows;—
The happy days unclouded to their close;
The sudden joys that out of darkness start
As flames from ashes; swift desires that dart
Like swallows singing down each wind that blows!
White as the gleam of a receding sail,
White as a cloud that floats and fades in air,
White as the whitest lily on a stream,
These tender memories are;— a Fairy Tale
Of some enchanted land we know not where,
But lovely as a landscape in a dream.

Blackout Poetry in 3 Steps:

- 1) Start with a pencil. Scan the text for an anchor word, one that stands out or resonates with you, and circle it.
- 2) Search and circle other words that work with your anchor word to form a thought. Like standard writing/paragraphs, be sure they read from top to bottom, left to right. You may find it takes a bit of circling and erasing to get something that works. If you find part of a word is all you need (joy vs. joys or land vs. landscape), keep what you want and eliminate what you don't want.
- 3) Using a marker, blackout all of the text outside of your circled words.