

# Blackout Poetry

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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.

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## **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.