Blackout Poetry Kits

Blackout poetry is created by blocking out words from a page of text to create your own poem. You can leave as many (or as few) words on the page as you like! This is a great cure for writer's block because it forces you to look at words in a new way.

Materials:

- 1 discarded book*
- 1 permanent marker
- *The book provided in this kit is an old Advance Reading Copy (ARC) which we can neither sell nor add to the library's collection, making it perfect to give away!

1. Find the page you would like to work with.

Flip through your book to a page with some eye-catching words.

2. Decide which words you want to include in your poem.

Skim over the page and circle the words and/or phrases you would like to use. Planning your poem will give you an idea of how the finished product will sound. It also helps ensure that you don't black out any words by mistake.

Note: If you would prefer not to draw directly in the book, you can always make a copy of the page you want to use.

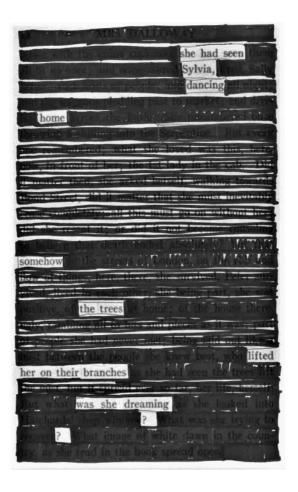
house with the china cockatoo, she had seen them all lit up once; and remembered Sylvia, Fred, Sally Seton-such hosts of people; and dancing all night; and the waggons plodding past to market; and driving home across the Park. She remembered once throwing a shilling into the Serpentine. But every one remembered; what she loved was this, here, now, in front of her; the fat lady in the cab. Did it matter then, she asked herself, walking towards Bond Street, did it matter that she must inevitably cease completely; all this must go on without her; did she resent it; or did it not become consoling to believe that death ended absolutely? but that somehow in the streets of London, on the ebb and flow of things, here, there, she survived, Peter survived, lived in each other, she being part, she was positive, of the trees at home; of the house there, ugly, rambling all to bits and pieces as it was; part of people she had never met; being laid out like a mist between the people she knew best, who lifted her on their branches as she had seen the trees lift the mist, but it spread ever so far, her life, herself. But what was she dreaming as she looked into Hatchards' shop window? What was she trying to recover? What image of white dawn in the country, as she read in the book spread open:

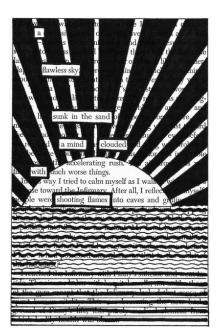
MRS. DALLOWAY

3. Black out everything that is not your poem.

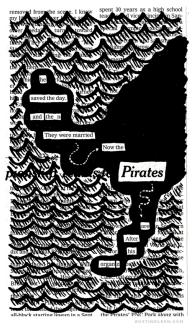
Once you know which words you want to keep, use a marker to block out the rest. Feel free to get creative with this step!

You can even turn your blackout poetry into visual art by creating doodles and scenes within the blacked-out portion (as in the examples below).









by <u>C.B. Wenworth</u>

by **Tom Phillips**

by Austin Kleon