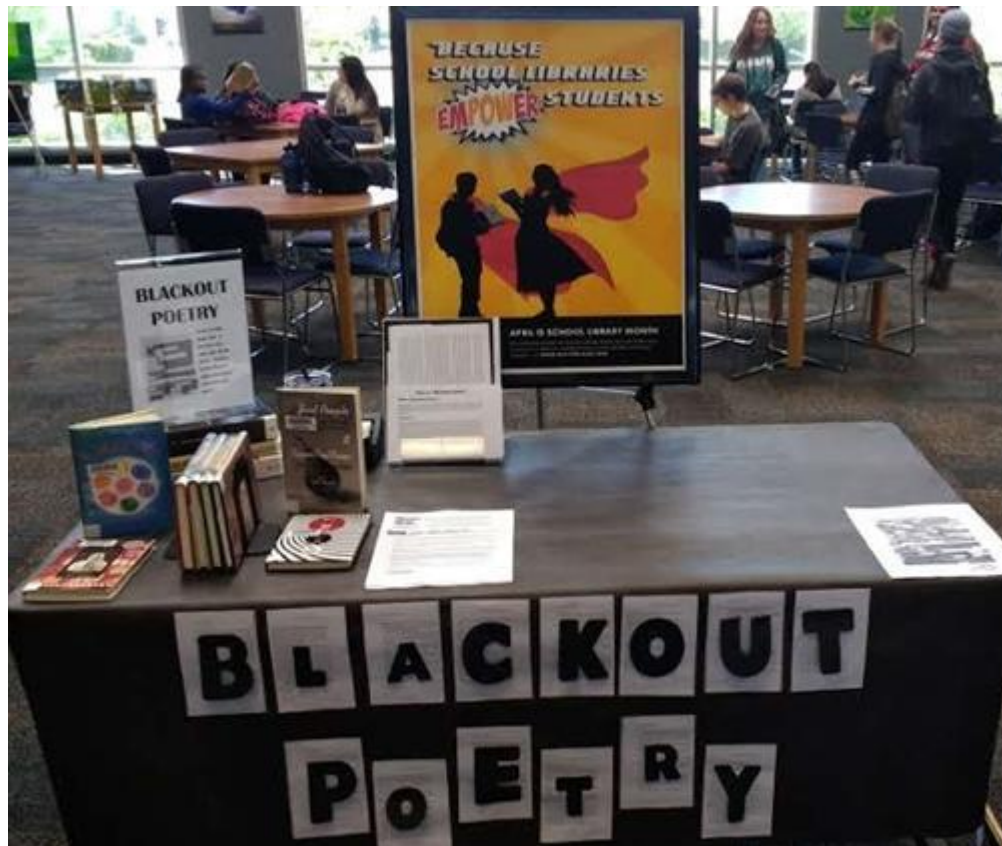


How to “Blackout Poetry”

What is Blackout Poetry?

Blackout poetry is when a page of text, usually an article from a newspaper or a page from a novel, is completely blacked out (colored over with permanent marker so that it is no longer visible) except for a select few words. When only these words are visible, a brand new story is created from the existing text.



[redacted]
 [redacted] hurry [redacted] back [redacted] brick
 [redacted] dark [redacted]
 [redacted] walking [redacted] longer.
 [redacted] spite [redacted] forgot [redacted]
 [redacted] fast [redacted]
 [redacted] shall [redacted]
 [redacted] leave [redacted] die," [redacted]
 smell [redacted] killing [redacted]
 keep [redacted] eyes [redacted] already."
 [redacted] fallen [redacted] mis-
 tress. [redacted]
 [redacted] flesh, [redacted] troubled [redacted]
 [redacted]
 "Run [redacted]
 [redacted] deadly [redacted]
 [redacted] girl [redacted] asleep
 [redacted]
 [redacted] aroused [redacted] forward [redacted]
 [redacted] sight.
 [redacted] hands, [redacted] carry [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted] arms [redacted]

Mrs. McCoy
 4/3/17

Wizard of Oz Blackout Poetry

By Mrs. McCoy 4/3/17

Hurry back

Brick dark walking

Longer spite forgot

Fast shall leave

Die smell killing

Keep eyes already

Fallen mistress

Flesh troubled

Run deadly girl

Asleep aroused

Forward sight

Hands carry arms

Directions:

1. **Choose when the blackout strikes.** Just like how the most difficult part of writing a traditional poem is figuring out which words to add to the page, the hardest part of writing a blackout poem is identifying which words to eliminate. A good way to start is to glance at the page without reading the text fully and put boxes around the words or phrases that for whatever reason, really strike you. You can choose whether you want to make a broad story out of just "big" words like nouns, verbs, and adjectives or if you want to create a more coherent narrative using big words and little words like "is," "of," and "the" to move the story along.

2. **Blackout with a sharpie.** Now, blackout all the other words that you didn't box.

3. **Share your work.** Tape your poem to the display.