

Found Poetry—*generating poems from existing prose*

Directions:

1. All read the excerpted prose you received on handout as a class
2. Look at model one of found poetry.
3. Individually reread excerpt and highlight or underline words, phrases, and concise clauses that pull you—*we're usually "pulled" by intriguing, powerful, poetic words or phrases. Try to avoid picking a whole sentence—pick the word or phrase in the sentence that holds its power.* Alternatively, you can cross out unnecessary words or phrases, leaving you with the word or phrase that holds the most power.
4. Copy the material you highlighted onto a clean sheet of notebook paper.
 - a. In doing so, be sure that each highlighted/underlined chunk is placed on its own line.
 - b. You should end up with a single word, a phrase, or a concise clause on each line of your paper so that you have a vertical line of the highlighted/underlined chunks running down the left margin of your page.
5. Look at model two of found poetry
6. Read your selected poetic rendering and make some *writerly* decisions.
 - a. It might turn out that some of the words/phrases you selected “stick out” in an odd way or just don’t seem to fit with the others. Feel free to line through them so they’ll be cut from the next draft.
 - b. You’ll likely need to add a word or words in spots, or even a whole line, to help what’s happening on the page make more sense to readers. You might have to change verb conjugation.
 - c. As you add material, make sure you keep track of what belonged to the original author and what’s yours. *You could do this by adding quotes around the material on each line or by writing what you add to the poem in a different color on your page.*
7. Create a clean draft of your found poem on the back of your paper or on a new sheet, reflecting the revisions made in step 6.
 - a. As you write, consider placement and arrangement. If you would like to add some space or indent some of the lines to create emphasis and convey meaning, feel free to do so.
 - b. Consider how you will make clear to readers what portions of the poem belong to the original author. You might put everything that was yours in italics, for example. If you conjugated any of the author’s original verbs for sensibility, surround such words with brackets.
 - c. Title your drafted poem.
 - d. Add a line giving credit to the original source under your title. Source:
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (84-87)

8. Read your finished poem independently and decide whether you'll be sharing the whole poem or just a consecutive 5-10 line excerpt from it (highlight/bracket the lines if this is the case) with your partner.
9. Share aloud with you partner! :)