



**OUT**

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## **What is Blackout Poetry? A Brief History of the Form**

Blackout poetry—also known as erasure poetry, redacted poetry, and a form of found poetry—has a complex history and dates back to Benjamin Franklin’s days.

### HOW TO WRITE BLACKOUT POETRY

Blackout poetry is when a page of text – usually an article from a newspaper, magazine, or a book – is completely blacked out (colored over with a 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. It is a wonderful cure for writer’s block.

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, Put boxes or circles around the words or phrases that really strike you. They should read in a normal fashion they just are not as they were originally typed. If you can read the words, you circled or squared and they flow and make a sentence, then, you are ready to blackout all the other words on the page (this is definitely the best part for all, doodlers or artists out there will love that their artistic juices can flow). Blackout poetry is like a treasure hunt since you find hidden meanings and secret messages in unlikely places.

Let’s look at a video to give more clarity and some sample

PAM



VICTORIA

**Still I Rise**

**Maya Angelou - 1928-2014**

**You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.  
Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.  
Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?  
Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines**

**Diggin' in my own backyard.  
You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.  
Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?  
Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.**

**Victoria (Live)**

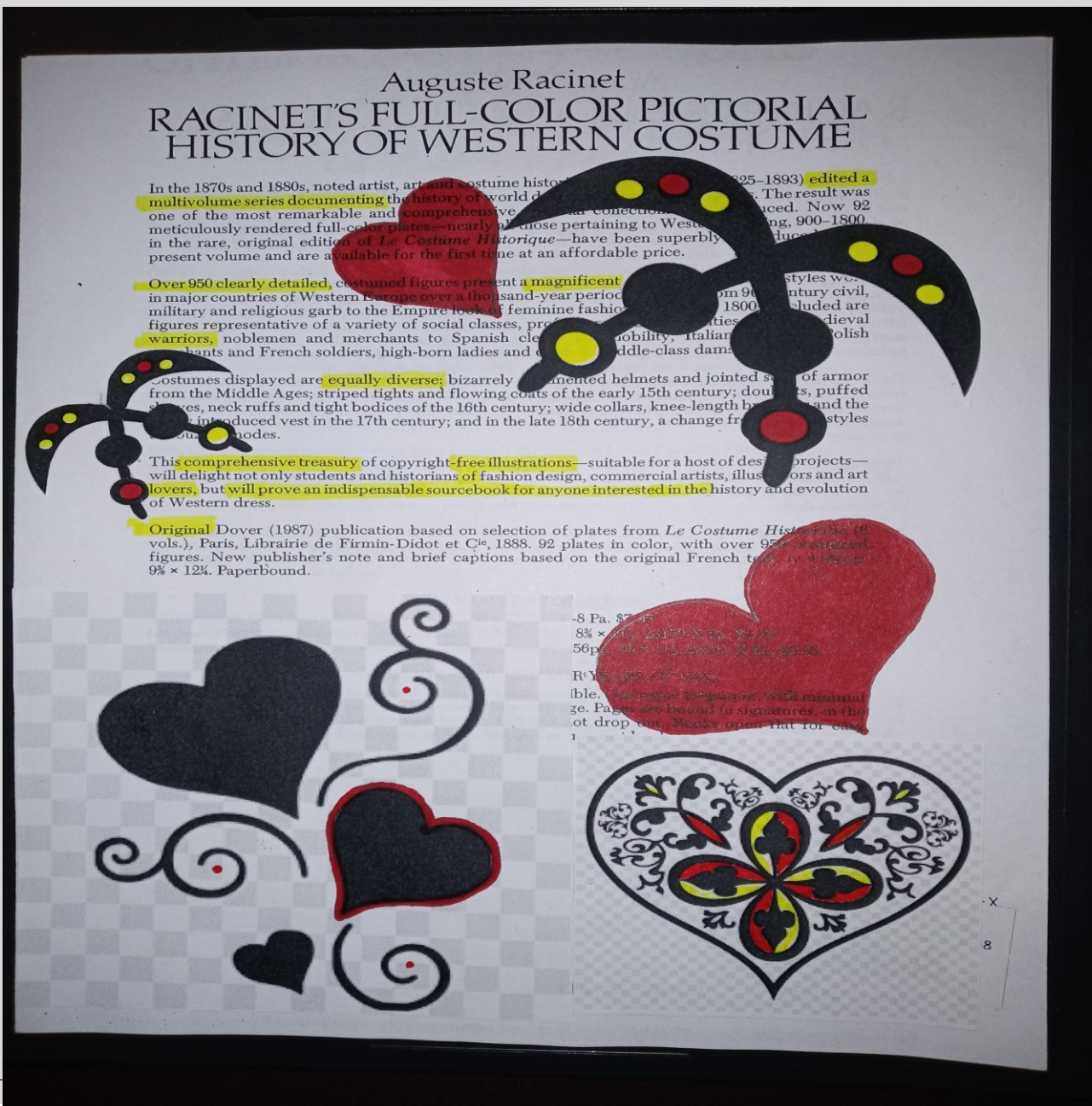
Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometimes declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.



This Blackout  
poem was  
created by our  
own Pamela  
Blanding  
Godbolt

PAM



Allow us to share samples of  
Blackout poetry

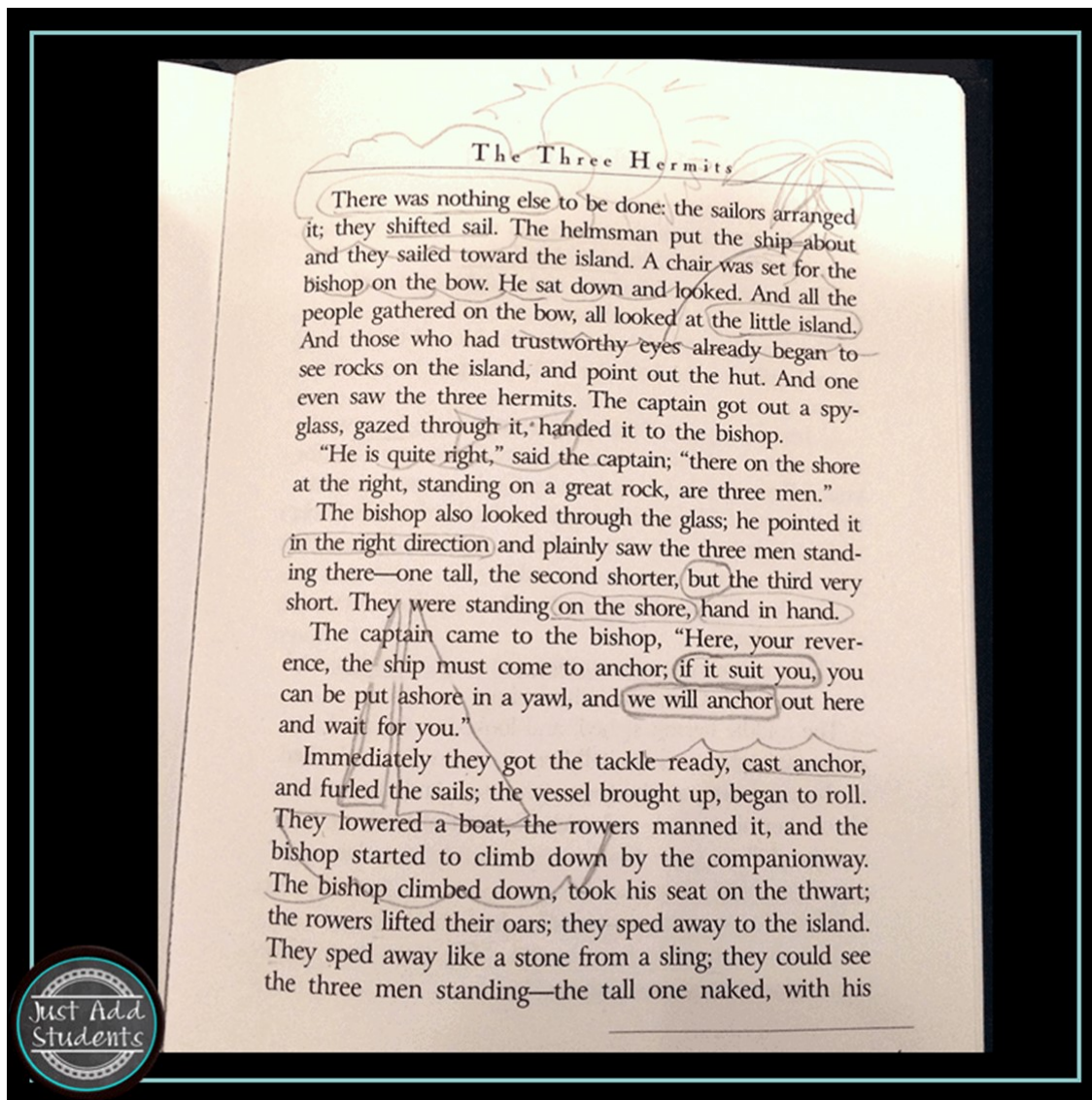




- ~~1. Agriculture is more than a job, it's a lifestyle. The lines are blurred between work and family. When you work where you also live, it can be hard to separate yourselves from work. When you can **look out your window and see all that needs to be done**, it's hard to take a day off.~~
- ~~2. The weather dictates many parts of your lives. Before I married a farmer, my idea of checking the weather was looking out the window and seeing if it was raining, sunny, cloudy or snowing. Then I knew what the weather was. My husband is constantly checking the weather and knows what the forecast is for next week. Granted, the forecast isn't 100 percent accurate, but it gives you **a good indication of what's to come**. It can also be devastating when the forecast shows **a big rainstorm** which then **passes you by**, not giving your crops the much-needed rain. **Or** the storm can stop right over your farm and **pound you with hail**, ruining all of your work in just a few minutes.~~
- ~~3. Farmers and ranchers are intelligent people. There's more to just planting a crop and hoping for the best. While a lot of farming is out of your control, (see #2) there are a lot of roles a farmer and rancher has: CEO, HR Director, agronomist, accountant, equipment operator and much more. **Equipment and technology are always changing, which means a farmer must always be willing to learn and change, too.**~~
- ~~4. A farm and ranch might be the greatest place for kids to grow up. My son gets to ride in tractors on an almost daily basis and loves to go feed the cows with his papa. "Take your child to work" is a daily event and not just once a year. They learn about life and death from an early age and to not take life for granted.~~
- ~~5. There's an amazing community to be found in agriculture. Not only have I found an amazing community of women in my area, but also online. I had no idea how many blogs and Facebook pages there were that are dedicated to farming and ranching. I feel like I know a lot of these women, but we've never actually met. It makes the world feel a little smaller and more connected.~~
- ~~6. We spend time together. Sometimes I complain about the long hours my husband is working, but there are days that I get to ride with him in a tractor or that he comes home for lunch. I know these are times I take for granted. If we were in the corporate world I would rarely, if ever, get to just hang out in his office while he was on the clock. And I definitely wouldn't bring the kids along to climb all over his desk.~~
- ~~7. Date night gets creative. When your farmer asks you to go with him, offer to drive unless you want to be the gate opener. Even if you feel like you have so much else you should be doing, **go with him when you get the chance.** Driving around is sometimes the~~

This writer highlighted his words with a square and then crossed out or blacked out the unwanted word.



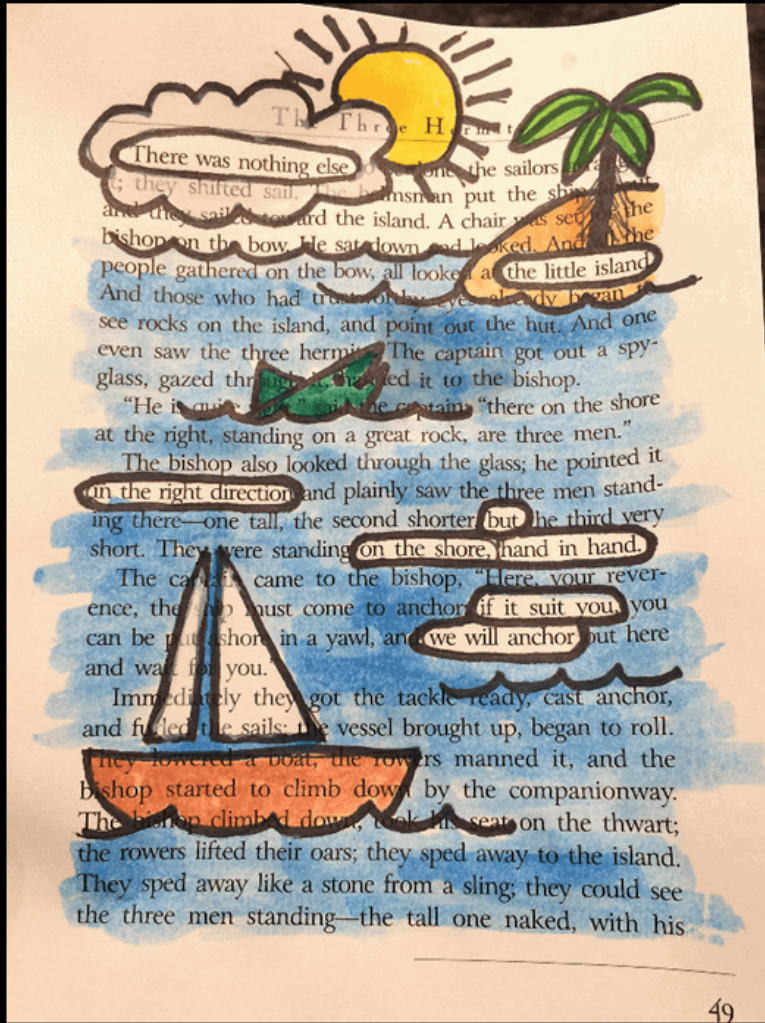


- This writer penciled out their words and prominence and began stretching a drawing.

VICTORIA



Now you can see the words highlighted and the picture come alive.



As you can see, this writer had fun drawing and blacking out the unneeded words in blue to match the theme of the piece.





# **BLACKOUT POETRY**

Now it is time for you to go into  
Blackout Poetry Mode.

Have Fun.

Take 10 minutes to see what you can  
create

Pam and Victoria

Thank you for your participation