



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

Feel free to join the fun as both reader and writer.

In this weekly poetry column, we're exploring the

subject of "home" from micro to macro—from the mobile home of the **body**, to the **house** it sleeps in, to the **land** that anchors the house, to the **sky** that enfolds it all. HomeWords addresses big themes with a little poem: the **American Cinquain**. Its 5 lines contain—in order—2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables.

This week our topic is **body as home**, and our cinquains explore it not just from different points of view, but also from different phases of life. **Melissa Fite Johnson** teaches English in Pittsburg, where she lives with her husband and dog.

## *After the Strokes*

*My dad  
fastened buttons  
slowly, each a worry  
bead and accomplishment in his  
left hand.*

**Jack Sweeney** is a sixth grader from the Kansas City area who loves being outside, fencing, and playing board games. How does one so young know?

*Like breath,  
it may grow with  
pride or shrink with shame. It  
takes you from place to place. But you  
are home.*

Poets and poets-to-be of all ages from across the state are invited to submit to

HomeWords. For guidelines, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities.



Melissa Fite Johnson, Pittsburg, and Jack Sweeney, Kansas City