



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This weekly poetry column explores the subject of “home” from micro to macro: from the mobile

home of the **body**, to the **house** it inhabits, to the **land** that anchors the house, to the **sky** that holds everything.

We approach this big theme with a microscope: the **American Cinquain**. Its 5 lines contain, in order, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables. In the little is the big.

Following the poets, our roads diverged into sports this week. **Jonathan Commons** is a student in Pittsburg. While he submitted this poem under the “Home as Body” category, its comic edge borders on the surreal, especially if you don’t follow college sports.

*Red and
purple people
running around Pittsburg
cheering for the Gorillas and
Dragons*

Israel Wasserstein, author of *This Ecstasy They Call Damnation*, was born and raised in Topeka, and is a Royals fan from childhood. He wrote this long before the World Series, but in any case, it’s relevant.

*those nights
Royals baseball
on AM radio
murmur of loss, hope, trained me for
all this*

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

HomeWords. For guidelines, visit 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.



Poet Israel Wasserstein, Topeka