



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as sky**. To address this idea, we're using the American Cinquain, a 5-line form whose syllables are divided among its lines: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2.

We keep our eyes on the sky in Kansas, for safety as well as for poetry. Is it any wonder that our poets write about tornados? Retired from UMKC, **Christine Galt Shields** has lived and penned poetry in six Kansas towns, beginning in Chanute and ending (so far) in Overland Park. I love her storm's "long green arms" and the surprise it delivers.

*The storm
rises northwest;
Spring winds its long green arms
around our sleeping hills and fields,
and howls.*

Dan Pohl has just published *Autochthonous: Found in Place* (Woodley Press). He lives with his family in Moundridge and has taught English composition at Hutchinson Community College for thirty-two years. His metaphor reminds me of Macbeth's witches.

*Twisted—
Sisters come out
From green skies—hike their skirts—
Dance soils and souls over the land
Then leave*

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.



Christine Galt Shields,
Overland Park



Dan Pohl,
Moundridge