



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week's theme is HOME AS HOUSE. While neither of these poems was written with Ebola in mind,

they share an unfortunate relevance.

Both poets explore "house" through the grid of the **American Cinquain**—22 syllables divided among five lines in this order: 2, 4, 6, 8, and back to 2.

Trish Reeves of Prairie Village has published books with BkMk Press and the Cleveland State University Poetry Center, winning the Cleveland Prize and fellowships from NEA and Yaddo. This cinquain is excerpted from a larger piece, "Angel Island," written in response to this project.

*one house
for leprosy
two for smallpox, they stood
up the hill from my grandmother's
new home*

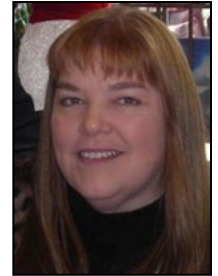
Carla Barber, a weekly columnist for *The McPherson Sentinel*, writes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and leads two writing groups. Amid all that, she has recently moved. I like her poem's ironic finish.

Moving In

*Frenzied
new home cleaning
wipes former DNA
traces, leaving fresh space for our
own dirt.*

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.



Poets Trish Reeves, Prairie Village, and Carla Barber, McPherson