



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.

David Bayard, a woodworker and photographer from Kansas City, contrasts day and night in his poem. I like how his metaphors of "window" and "ocean" suggest we can see through sky, yet are swimming in it.

*By day
Weather rules us
By night we glimpse neighbors
The sky is our window and our
Ocean*

Morgan O.H. McCune of Pittsburg sent in this cinquain from a series she calls "Updraft." Originally from Topeka, she is an associate professor at Pittsburg State University. I like her analogy of the torn web as "scud." And I hope the spider survived.

*Tangles
of the web fly
loose like racing storm scud.
I mourn loss; if she lives, spider
spins new.*

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.



David Bayard,
Kansas City



Morgan O.H.
McCune, Pittsburg
(photo credit:
Howard Wang)