



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as house**, room, apartment—whatever enfolds us at the end of the day. To address this theme, we’re using the American Cinquain, a 5-line form whose syllables are divided among its lines: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2.

**Howard Crise** retired to Newton in 2012 “largely due to the great frontier stories of my grandmother who was born here in 1884, and because I could no longer tolerate megalopolis.” If this cinquain is any indication, he has found home.

*A house  
Is not a home  
Unless you feel as if  
You can go there no matter when  
Or why*

**Diane Wahto**, now retired from teaching English at Butler Community College, grew up in Baxter Springs and eventually settled in Wichita where she entered the WSU MFA program and began writing poetry. Her “ghosts of laundry” haunt my house as well.

*Raised in  
the wood frame house  
that once housed my father  
around me the ghosts of laundry  
roamed free*

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.



Howard Crise,  
Newton



Diane Wahto,  
Wichita