



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

Our theme this week is HOME AS LAND, a favorite topic among many Kansas poets. They use the **American**

Cinquain as their medium—22 syllables divided among 5 lines in this way: 2, 4, 6, 8, 2.

Both poets chose to take a historic look at our landscape. **Michael Harty** lives in Prairie Village, practices psychoanalysis, and occasionally publishes in literary magazines. I like how his title becomes the door into the poem, and how the final spondee pounds in the ending.

Coronado Came

*was not
interested
tall grass bison roaming
empty sky everlasting wind
no gold*

Carol Dark Ayres of Leavenworth is a retired educator and author of *Lincoln and Kansas*. The moment she describes is a familiar one.

*Coming
To the breast of
A ridge the pioneers
Were awed by their first viewing of
Flint Hills*

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 Michael Harty,
Prairie Village



Poet Carol Dark
Ayres, Leavenworth