



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This month's theme is **home as land**, and both poets have considered it as water poured

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

Clyde Glandon lives in Tulsa now, but “has occasional visions, mostly during the first coolness of early fall, of long-gone bridges in hometown KCK.” He paints the scene with light, heat, and metaphor. That’s the power of the tiny, mighty cinquain, and of metaphor itself: In the little is the big.

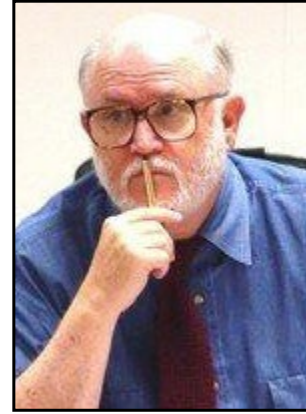
*glowing
the Kaw River
flows with the august heat
poured out from the sunset’s giant
ladle*

Lizeth Magana is a student at Emporia State University majoring in physics, minoring in math. Like the poet above, she addresses land as water, rippling in wind. In particular, I like the enjambment of line 3: As we approach, “waves” could be either noun or verb. By line 4, we discover it’s a verb, and the ending returns us, ghazal-like, to the poet herself.

*Wind blows
through the grassland
and ripples. Tall grass waves
“hello” to a young girl behind
curtains.*

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 Clyde Glandon, Tulsa