



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as land**. We'll explore it using the American Cinquain—just 5 lines with 22

syllables, divided up this way: 2, 4, 6, 8, 2.

Our poets explore land in terms of its creatures and creations. **Lynda Beck Fenwick** is the daughter of a Kansas farmer, born and raised on a four-generation farm on the Stafford-Pratt county line near Byers. This cinquain demonstrates the economy and potency of the form. In five short lines, she sets a scene and manages to appeal to most of our five senses.

## Summer

*Lightning  
bugs at twilight;  
juicy watermelon  
on the lawn—serenaded by  
crickets.*

**Pat Hisey's** father was born in Parsons, and describes herself as a "would-be writer" from Independence, Missouri. I can feel that grass and smell it too.

*Long since  
I can still feel  
newly mown grass between  
my toes as I chased lightning bugs  
in flight*

Enjoy the lightning bugs! And send me poems. 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.



Poets Lynda Beck Fenwick and Pat Hisey