



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

Here we are
at our last
HomeWords
column. It's been
quite a journey,
considering "home"

from micro to macro: body, house, land,
and sky. The American Cinquain has been
our means of transportation, moving
itself across the state to kitchen tables
and laptops where we've read the work of
fellow Kansans on an important topic.

This weekly column has run for a year,
featuring 105 cinquains symbolizing the
105 counties of Kansas. I've been asked
more than once why I didn't publish
my own work, so I'll consider my arm
sufficiently twisted.

Here's a crown cinquain, five cinquains
that connect on the theme. It moves from
little to big and back, offered to fellow
Kansans who are HomeWords bound:

NESTING DOLLS

Body
my mobile home
you fold well travel light
go everywhere I go except
at night

The glass
fills and empties
like a house whose laughter
left with the kids, returns with a
pratfall

Walnuts
we planted wave
back at me from the top
floor window where you've risen from
the grave

Heaven
not overhead
but down between our toes
and in our nose when we breathe we're
sky high

The sky
the silo and
I, a set of nesting
dolls with a surprising poem
inside

The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC)
deserves more than applause for rescuing
the Poet Laureateship and giving it a
permanent home—a win/win for the state
and its citizens. A special thanks to KHC
for its strategic support of HomeWords,
and to the newspapers that carried it.

To read past HomeWords columns, 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.

**Note: This is the last column of
HomeWords, a project of Wyatt Townley,
the Poet Laureate of Kansas 2013-2015.**

