



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week's theme is HOME AS HOUSE. Our poets explore "house" through the door of the **American**

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

**Simone Briand** of Overland Park was born and raised in Ness City. A librarian by day and writer by night, she loves books, road trips, wide open spaces, and music from all eras. The contrast between inside and outside is pointed up by the poem's surprise.

*My folks  
Knew this old porch  
Watched spiders weave at night  
Turning their backs to the chaos  
Inside*

**Martha Robbins** of Cummings is a floral still-life photographer who loves poetry. Here's another approach that combines inside and outside.

*My house  
possesses all  
who dwell within its walls  
and jointly claims the neighbor's cat  
outside.*

**Kaitlin Phifer** is a high school student in Pittsburg. Again, here's another inside / outside point-of-view poem.

*And how  
is it that my  
old home will protect me  
from the weather that Kansas will  
bring us.*

Weather, cats, and spiders—they all come through our walls.

HomeWords is a weekly column that runs through National Poetry Month (April) as Wyatt Townley finishes her term as Poet Laureate of Kansas. To read past columns, 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.



Poet Martha Robbins, Cummings

Poet Simone Briand, Overland Park

