



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as house**—or apartment, or cabin, or room—or whatever folds

us in at the end of the day. To address this theme, we’re using the American Cinquain, a 5-line form whose syllables are divided among its lines: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2.

**Roy Beckemeyer**, of Wichita, is a retired engineer who edits a scientific journal, writes poetry, and loves his adopted Kansas. I like the way he ends his second line, and the way that linebreak relates to the beginning of the next line: “open / inward.”

*Front doors  
always open  
inward, the knob pulling  
us forward, across the threshold,  
heart-ward.*

Retired from teaching at KU, Lawrence-based **Elizabeth Schultz** is an arts and environmental advocate who writes about the places and people she loves. Here she has an unexpected take on a common backyard neighbor:

*Placing  
hexagon on  
hexagon, wasps construct  
their stylish pleasure domes, serving  
just wasps.*

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.



Roy Beckemeyer,  
Wichita



Elizabeth Schultz,  
Lawrence