



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our poets navigate HOME AS SKY, using the **American Cinquain** to steer

by: 22 syllables

arranged in five lines this way: 2, 4, 6, 8, 2.

Both our poets this week are high school students from Olathe. It's great to hear their strong voices and vision developing so early. **Erika Fiscus** says she "has an ongoing obsession with the written word and Japan."

The Endless Night

*Bright light
a shining ray
of brilliant white, home is
written in the stars, a cosmic
black map*

Shillan Thaithi of Olathe is a high school sophomore who moved to America from Kenya when she was six. In her free time she teaches Sunday school, cooks, reads, and hangs out with friends.

*Moons rise,
planes rocket in
the dry air leaving white
memories behind. Blue jays in
disguise.*

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 Erika Fiscus of Olathe



Poet Shillan Thaithi of Olathe