



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 window of the **American**

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

Both poems are looking backward and forward. The first is written by **Joanne Hickey** of Lawrence, a lover of poetry who has lived in Wichita, Argonia, Emporia, and St. Marys.

*Empty
nest yet still home
little footsteps echo
as I drink in quiet and am
reborn.*

The next cinquain comes to us from a neurosurgeon from Atlanta who has married a Kansan and prefers to write under his pen name, "**MobiusDick.**" The poem's sound system offers up both internal and line-end rhyme.

*Return
Lose, tie,...or win.
Do you know what's meant by
"You can never go home again"?
Begin*

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 Joanne Hickey, Lawrence