



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

Our topic this month is **home as land**, a favorite among many Kansas poets. We'll use the **American Cinquain**

as our means—22 syllables divided among 5 lines in this way: 2, 4, 6, 8, 2.

This week's poets put the theme behind the wheel. Kansas is a gorgeous state to drive through, unless you're from anywhere wearing blinders. But of course our poets do see, and tell us we're neither flat nor black-and-white.

Born in Eureka in the Flint Hills, **Jeanie Wilson** is the author of a book of poetry, *Uncurling*, and co-author of *The Door into the Dream* with her late husband, Thomas Zvi Wilson. I like the sounds she has arranged so musically: "dream / cling"; "drives / wild"; "roads / roses"; "flint / ditches." When we read her cinquain aloud, we can hear those internal half-rhymes stitching the poem together.

*I dream
my brother drives
the back roads where roses
cling to flint, wildflowers color
ditches.*

Dennis Bosley was born in Garden City and is the senior Topeka driver for Southern Cal Transport, averaging about 3000 miles a week and getting home twice a week. He writes after unloading at grocery warehouses, and "can't help but read poetry to other truckers, made from the way they say things." We're glad he does.

*This truck
goes a long way
up and down every hill,
until the time I come home and
greet you.*

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 Jeanie Wilson,
born in Eureka



Poet Dennis Bosley,
Topeka