



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

HomeWords invites you to participate as a reader and/or writer in this weekly poetry column syndicated

in newspapers around the state.

Our subject is the concept of “home,” micro to macro: from the mobile home of the body, to the room or house we live in, to the land that anchors us, to the sky that encloses it all.

To explore these big themes, we’re using a really little poem: the **American Cinquain**. Just five lines long, each line has a different number of syllables—in order, 2, 4, 6, 8, and back to 2. It’s a simple form that both beginners and longtime poets can write successfully.

This week we’ll look up. “Home” as sky is our subject, and Judie Withers from

Colby has done a number of things with her cinquain. I like the way it goes up (balloons) and down (tears), and she’s got some nice sounds going on internally. All this action in such a small space.

“Release”

*Balloons
drift to the sky.
Clouds capture and hide them;
family recalls happy times.
Tears fall.*

Judie Withers, of Colby, is a mother, grandmother, widow, and a rancher’s wife for 47 years.

Poets and poets-to-be of all ages from across the state are invited to submit to HomeWords. For guidelines, visit www.kansashumanities.org.



Poet Judie Withers, Colby

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.