



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

The content is big, the form small. Like opposing weather fronts, that setup provides a wonderful tension.

The result is this project—a weekly poetry column syndicated in newspapers across Kansas.

We hope you'll join us both as reader and as writer. Our topic is "home" from micro to macro—from the mobile home of the **body**, to the **house** that surrounds it, to the **land** that anchors the house, to the sky in which it swirls. HomeWords addresses big themes using a little poem: the American Cinquain. Its 5 lines contain—in order—2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables.

This week our topic is **body as home**, and we have 2 cinquains that explore it from quite different angles. **Lee Mick** from Cawker City says he's "having a ball writing poetry from the home of that

famous ball of twine...and occasionally getting published." Here he finds a natural painkiller:

*The pain
slows all movement,
takes control of each day,
yet melts at the simple smile of
grandchild.*

Lawrence-based **Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg**, Kansas Poet Laureate Emerita, is the author of four collections of poetry, a novel, and two memoirs. She titled this cinquain, "Sky," but its expansiveness could be addressing the body's interior landscape.

*Your heart,
skin, limbs, yearnings
made of cloud, wet grass, rock
dissolved into rivers guiding
you home.*



Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Lawrence

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.