



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as land**. We'll be exploring this landscape using the American Cinquain,

just 5 lines long with its syllables divided among its lines: 2, 4, 6, 8, 2.

The first cinquain comes to us from **Kevin Rabas**, co-director of the creative writing program at Emporia State, editor of Flint Hills Review, and author of four books. The harsh accents of all the spondees mimic gunfire.

Midwestern Ringneck Pheasant

*Tallgrass,
throat-high, Dad boots
his way through, shouts "bird," shoots,
plucks pheasant from the horizon,
wrings necks.*

Our Kansas Poet Laureate Emerita **Denise Low** has finished a new book of poems, *Melange Block*, forthcoming from Red Mountain Press in Santa Fe. Her cinquain moves through millennia of stone, chalk, and salt to find a surprise.

Rock Wall

*Limestone
traps chalk mussels,
pockets of brittle flint,
expanses of dried-salt oceans.
This rose.*

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.



Kevin Rabas,
Emporia



Denise Low,
Lawrence