



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

In this last month of HomeWords, we're printing longer cinquain sequences that approach the theme of home.

These connected cinquains were submitted by gifted poets statewide. The cinquain is a tiny—some would say confining!—form, just 22 syllables arranged among 5 lines: 2/4/6/8/2.

But within its trim contours, it shines.

**Patricia Traxler** of Salina is a two-time Bunting Poetry Fellow at Radcliffe and the award-winning author of four poetry collections and a novel. Her poems have appeared widely in *The Nation*, *The Boston Review*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The LA Times*, and *Best American Poetry*.

## AT HOME BETWEEN LAND AND SKY

1.  
*Winter*  
*night, alight with*  
*micro-crystals of snow*  
*glimmering beneath a pale moon.*  
*Silence.*

2.  
*In earth*  
*Still hard and cold*  
*from winter, miracle*  
*in barely thawed soil: bright saffron*  
*crocus.*

3.  
*Summer*  
*sun dominates*  
*the sky, the land, our skin;*  
*even in night's welcome darkness*  
*it reigns.*

4.  
*Autumn*  
*air carries stray*  
*memories, lost in time's*  
*whirl and spin before we knew them:*  
*fond gift.*

**Note: submissions are now closed for HomeWords. The column will run through National Poetry Month (April) as Wyatt Townley finishes out her term as Poet Laureate of Kansas.**



Poet Patricia Traxler, Salina

To read past HomeWords columns, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://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.