



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This weekly poetry column explores the notion of “home” in expanding contexts—from

the mobile home of the **body**, to the **house** it inhabits, to the **land** that holds the house, to the **sky** that houses it all. *HomeWords* addresses big themes with a tiny poem: the **American Cinquain**. Its 5 lines contain—in order—2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables.

This week’s topic is **home as body**. Our two poets explore it from quite different angles. **Tyler Sheldon** grew up in Hutchinson and is Press Manager for Flint Hills Review. I like his approach to the electrical system we house.

Freedom of Body

*The lights
your synapses
generate as they link
your impulses; these are flames of
freedom.*

Myrne Roe lives in Wichita and has published in local and regional publications. Notice how the meaning of the penultimate line is shifted by the final line. It moves us rhetorically and emotionally.

*Grandma
forgot our names
clung to an old sweater
did not know she no longer lived
at home*

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.



Poets Tyler Sheldon, Hutchinson, and Myrne Roe, Wichita