



# HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

During the last month of the HomeWords column, we're running longer cinquain sequences

that have arrived at our door from across the state. The American Cinquain is just five-lines long, its 22 syllables fractured into a 2-4-6-8-2 form.

Our penultimate HomeWords poem is full of domestic detail. It comes to us from **Audrey Coleman** of Lawrence. A Kansas native, Audrey is an archivist and museum administrator who lives with her husband, two children, and one venerable dog.

## **PIED A TERRE (lit.)**

*bath tub  
ring. tall grass/weeds  
warm in our worn wagon  
rut. our own dusty earth-wallow.  
hoofprint*

*lands here.  
baby lambs a-  
bed. and you, book-in-hand  
tend fire. unscathed, we escape  
full flight.*

*in turn  
cracks open, weep  
while dirt shifts strong but not  
square, nor plumb. swift how the time  
comes,  
calling.*

*me, he:  
all us help here  
break and back in, again.  
slice of succor satisfies peace,  
for pie.*

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.

**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 Audrey Coleman, Lawrence