

# Blackout Poetry in 3 steps

## 1. Start with a pencil.

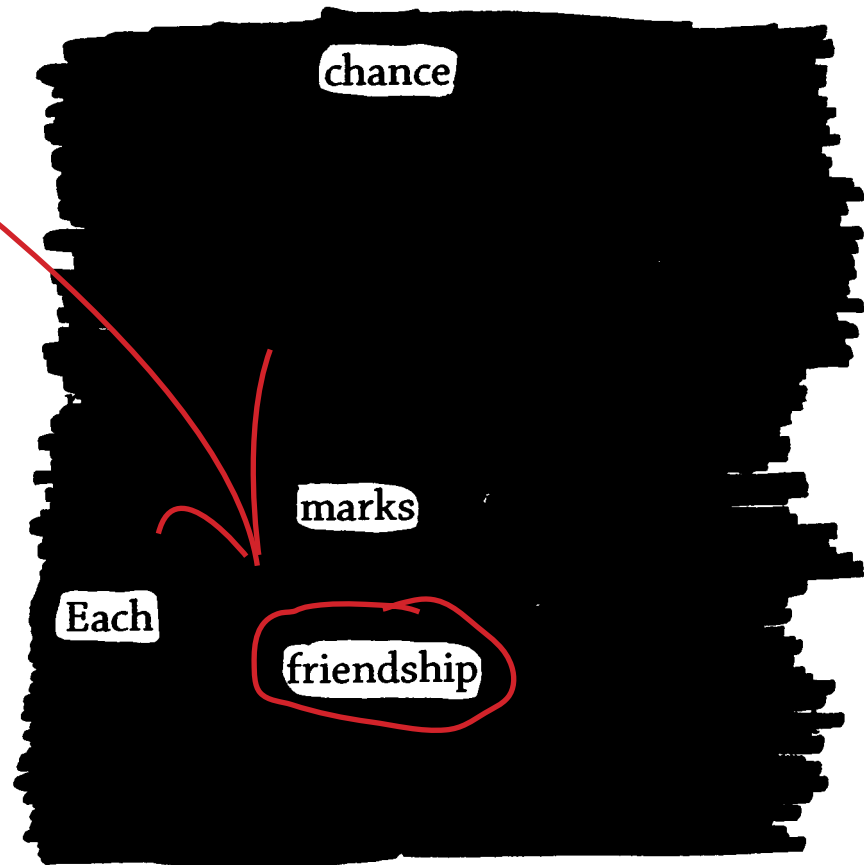
Scan the text for an anchor word. One word that stands out or resonates with you. Circle it.

## 2. Search and circle other words that work with your anchor word to form a thought.

Like standard writing, be sure the string of words read left to right, top to bottom. You may find it takes a bit of back and forth get something that works. If you find part of a word is all you need (e.g. land vs. landscape), keep what you want and eliminate what you don't want.

## 3. Using a marker, blackout all of the text outside of your circled words.

Longfellow was from Maine. You can use the poem on this page for your blackout poetry, or find some writing from someone in your state.



**Blackout Poetry**  
with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's  
*Holidays*

Holidays

The holiest of all holidays are those

Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;

The secret anniversaries of the heart,

When the full river of feeling overflows;—

The happy days unclouded to their close;

The sudden joys that out of darkness start

As flames from ashes; swift desires that dart

Like swallows singing down each wind that blows!

White as the gleam of a receding sail,

White as a cloud that floats and fades in air,

White as the whitest lily on a stream,

These tender memories are;— a Fairy Tale

Of some enchanted land we know not where,

But lovely as a landscape in a dream.