

# Blackout Poetry in 3 steps

## 1. Start with a pencil.

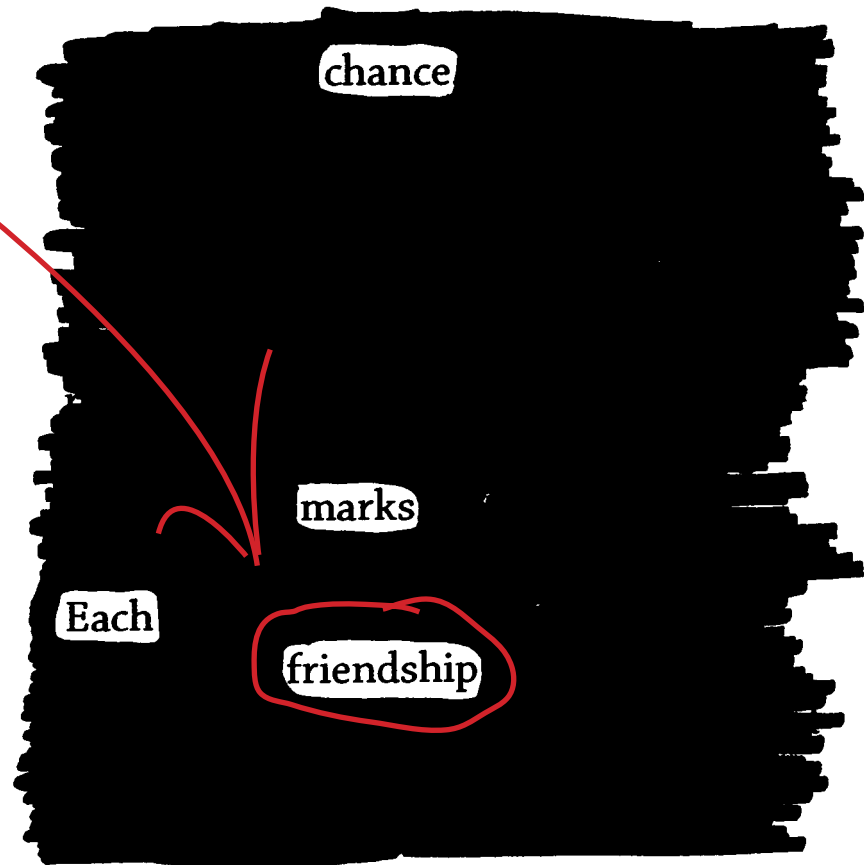
Scan the text for an anchor word: one word that stands out or resonates with you. Circle it.

## 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.

You can use the poem on the next page for your blackout poetry, or use a page from an old book, a magazine, or a newspaper.



**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.