**Blackout Poetry**

**Intro**

Never considered yourself a poet? Doesn’t matter. All you’ll need is a book, newspaper or piece of printed paper and find the words that matter.

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**What is Blackout Poetry?**

Blackout poetry is the process of creating a poem from the words already on a printed page. It’s a great exercise for writer as it asks us to focus on selecting a limited number of words to create new meanings. The exercise is relaxing, sometimes even cathartic, and allows you to create something challenging and satisfying.

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**Getting started**

You’ll start with any piece of printed material. This can be a newspaper or magazine article, an email you printed out, a museum brochure – anything!

Choose carefully which words you want to preserve. Try to string them together around a common theme or story. Don’t overthink it and have fun noticing how many underlying messages are just waiting to be discovered in every paragraph.

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**Picking words**

If you’re lost, start by finding words that interest you and build from there. Your poem doesn’t necessarily need to make sense. You can pick random words as well. Whatever floats your boat.

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**Blackout**

Surround the words you’ve chosen and start blacking out or making art around them without blocking them out.

One idea is to connect your imagery to the poem. For example: if you’ve made a poem about the sea perhaps you can try for an aquatic theme.

You can choose to leave a lot of the text visible but the important thing is to highlight your chosen words so that the eyes are directly drawn to them.

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**How did it go?**

Find a deeper meaning? Or was it all nonsense? Either way, I hope you had fun and this easy exercise is infinitely repeatable for a quick burst of creativity with the written word.