

“Found” Poetry is poetry that comes from a text not originally presented as poetry. “Finding a poem” in a prose passage allows us to highlight a particularly effective passage by lifting up the beauty of the language and style and consider the thematic implications of such a passage. Your assignment is to locate a passage, or passages, of significance in *Song of Solomon* and, by the thoughtful arranging, combining, and/or deleting of words, create a freestanding poem from her text—and then explain the significance of the passage and its poetic form.

Your poem must be typed and is **DUE Monday, October 16, 2017. It is worth 20 points.**

Guidelines:

- 1) The *truest* form of found poetry is simply to present the text as is, with no deletions or alterations, just poetic line breaks. However, for *this* assignment, more leeway is provided—should you desire to take more poetic liberties.
- 2) Begin with, for example, 100-150 words; cut out, say, half: they may be unnecessary words or words that don’t seem to fit in the poem you are creating.
- 3) Remember that FORM is POETRY and POETRY is FORM: Play with spacing and spatial arrangement. Make the prose look like a poem. Line breaks should emphasize key words, sounds, and interest. Read aloud as you arrange.
- 4) Consider putting together two or more sections.
- 5) **DO NOT rearrange words**; that is, do not shift the *order* in which the words originally appear. It is in the *deletion* of words and/or in the *shaping* of the form that the poem within will appear.
- 6) Arrange the words to make a rhythm you like—space the words out so they are alone or all run together
you may want to put
key
words on lines by
themselves.
- 7) Punctuate! Or not? Just be consistent. And use punctuation correctly—if you use it.
- 8) The poem’s sense/meaning may shift a bit from the original passage. That’s ok. Let the poem come forth.
- 9) At the bottom of the poem, **cite the source**—provide the author and page number(s).
- 10) Finally, **in a PARAGRAPH**, explain the *holistic significance* of the passage AND the purpose of your poem/poetic *form*: e.g. “...to clearly show the salient characteristics of Milkman because, throughout the novel, Morrison...” or “... to reveal the change in the character of Guitar throughout the progression of the novel because...” or “...because it Morrison’s theme of _____, which is further developed...” You get the idea.

Around an Enormous Couch

Windows ajar
and fresh grass
seemed
to grow
into the house
a breeze blew through
blew curtains in
at one end
and out
the other
twisting
toward the ceiling
then
over the rug
making a shadow
on it
as wind does
on the sea.

By Kristy Kolaya
From *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald