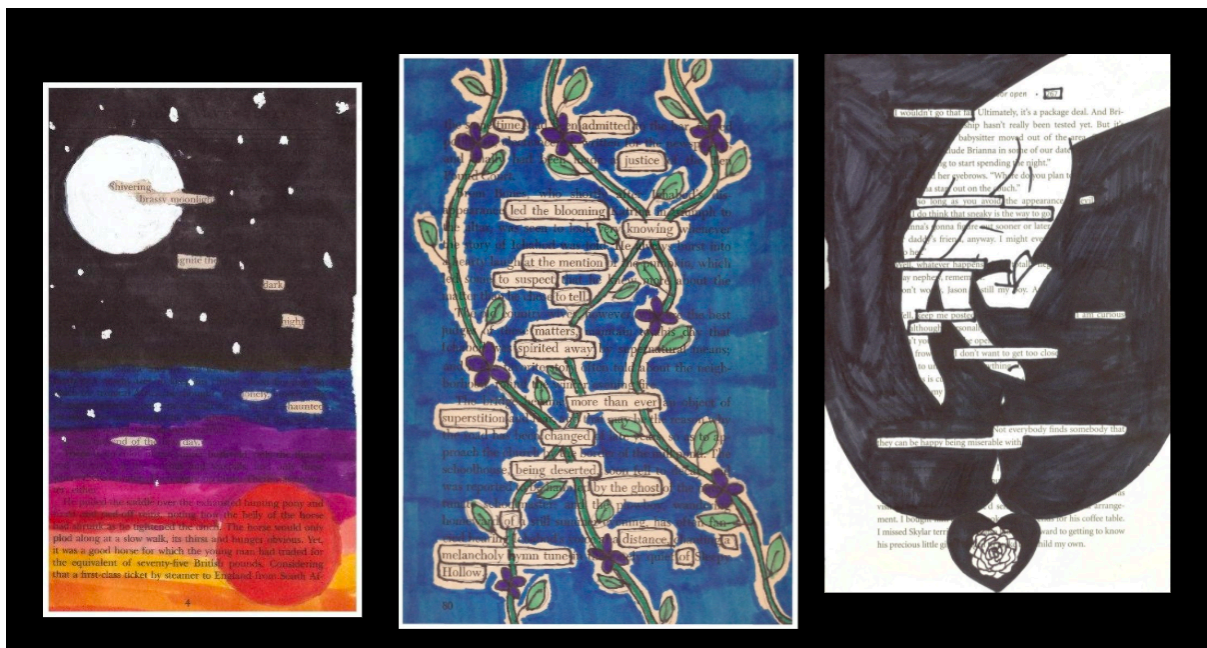


## Writing a Blackout Poem



1. **Choose a page of text**

You can use a page from a newspaper, a magazine or a page from a book that is falling apart or ready for the recycle bin. (ask your parents before ripping anything!)

2. **Gather the interesting words.**

Scan the page looking for words and phrases that jump out at them. Circle those words **lightly** in pencil.

3. **Determine what words to keep.**

Read through the list of words they've circled and begin to see their poem appearing. We read from top to bottom and left to right, so the words need to be in that order so the reader will understand the poem in the same way the writer wants.

You may find words that you want to eliminate from your poem, or you may find that you need more. This is why using a light pencil is helpful! Erase or add!

4. **Refine word choice.**

Read your poem aloud to make sure it makes sense. You can also write them out. What theme are you trying to convey? What do you want the reader to understand or feel after having read your poem?

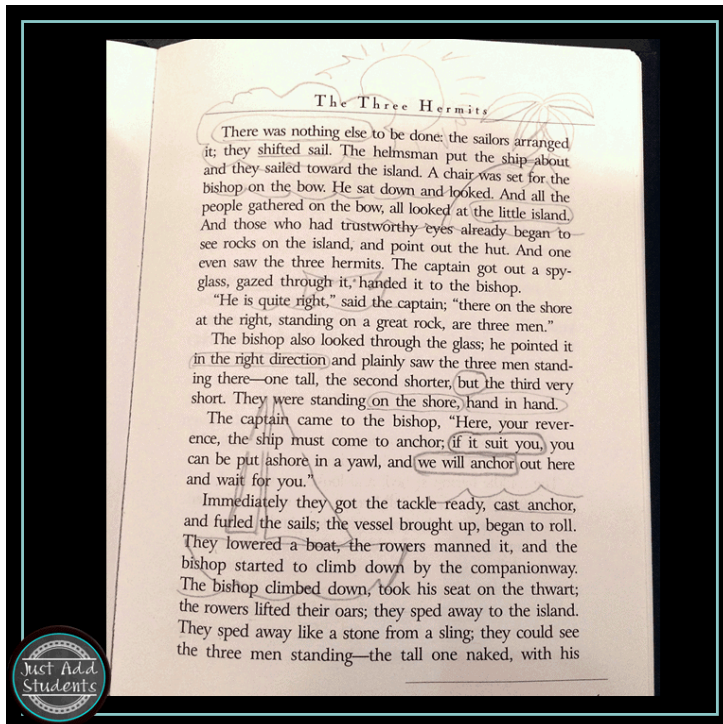
5. **Once you are happy with their poem, they can begin to blackout the page.**

There is so much flexibility in this step! You can simply blacken the words with a marker, or you can connect them with color. You can paint or illustrate the page — even use collage.

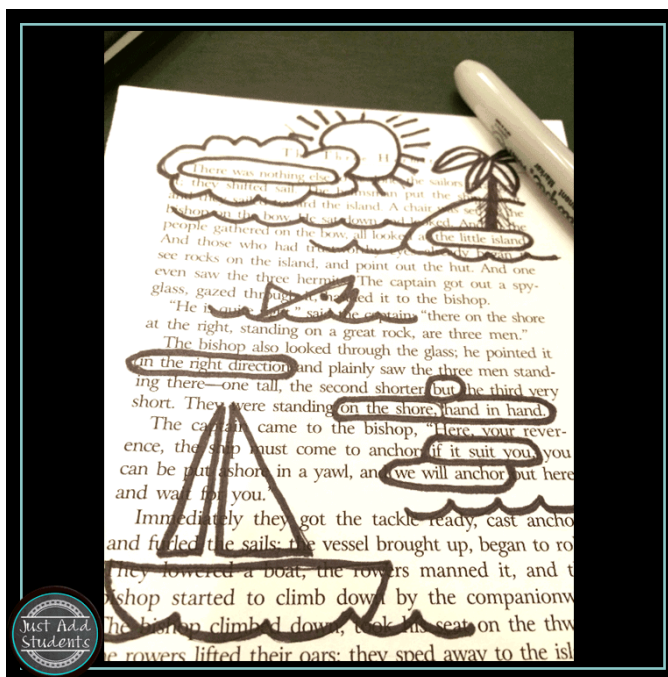
6. **Or — create an image that fits with the poem.**

After circling the words, you can sketch a design that fits with the theme or images of

the poem.



7. Use a sharpie or pen to outline.



Then, erase all the pencil marks.

8. Add color!



Here's an example using watercolor.

