

## Blackout Poetry Instructions

Follow this guide to uncover a hidden poem!

Step 1: Select a page from an old book or even an article from a newspaper or magazine. Take a picture of the page.

Step 2: Scan or skim the page, keeping your eyes peeled for an “anchor word” – a word that stands out to you because of its significance or meaning.

Step 3: Read the page all the way through, and, with a pencil, circle words that connect to the anchor word. Try not to circle more than three words in a row.

Step 4: On a separate piece of paper, list the circled words in order as they appear in the text. Words will remain in this order for the final poem.

Step 5: Select additional words from the text to create lines of the poem. You may eliminate parts of words, such as endings, as needed. If you get stuck here, go back to the original text and look for more words to circle.

Step 6: In the existing text, make sure you’ve circled all the words you will be using for the final poem. Erase circles around words you decided not to use.

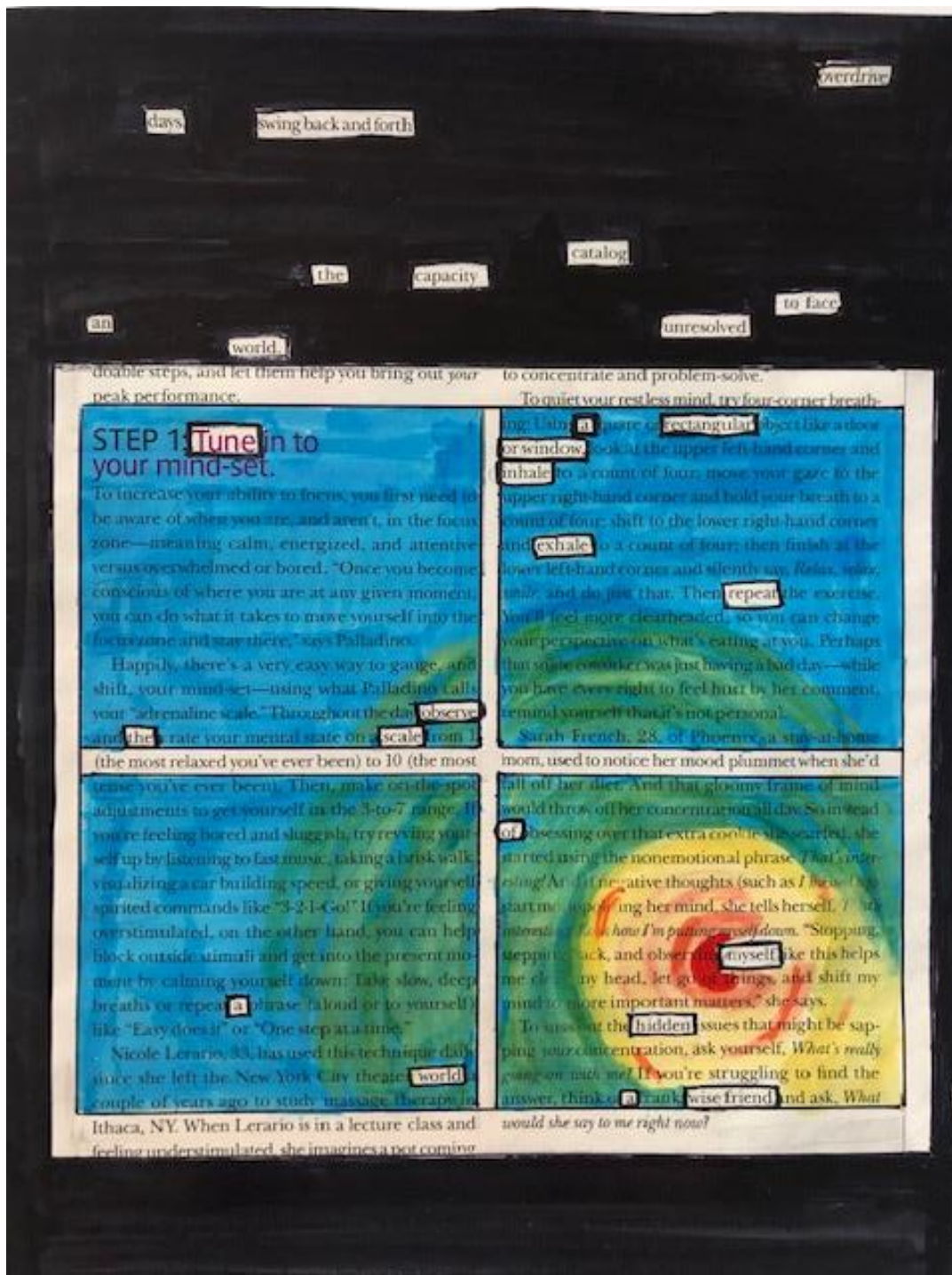
Step 7: Optional - You may wish to add an illustration or design to the page of text. Be sure not to draw over the words you’ve circled for your poem.

Step 8: With a marker, “black out” the words you are not using. This will reveal the final poem. If you’ve added an illustration or design, be sure not to mark over the outline.

Step 9: Take a photo of the completed work.

Step 10: Submit an image of the finished poem and the original page (if you have it) via this Google form -- [Black Out Poem Submission Form](#)

Below is a sample of a completed work with an added illustration.



Text:

- Overdrive days swing back and forth
- Catalog the capacity to face an unresolved world
- A rectangular tune or window
- Inhale
- Exhale
- Repeat
- Observe the scale of myself
- A hidden world
- A wise friend