

# Be a Blackout Poet



### You will need

- Coloured Pens and a Pencil
- Old Newspapers, Magazines or Books  
\*if using books you must ask permission to use

### Before you begin

Decide if you are using newspapers, magazines or books to make your poem. If you don't want to cut up a book, then you can photocopy a page to use.

### Have a go

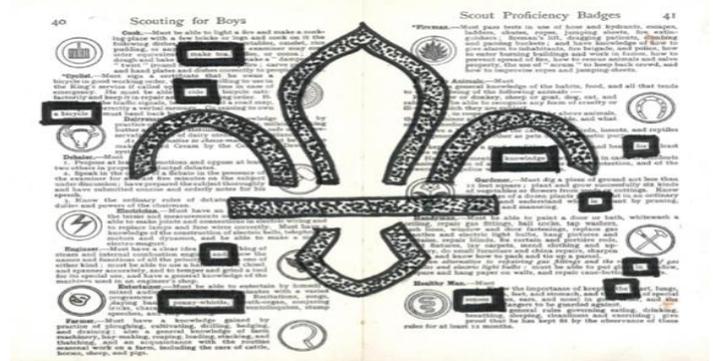
Blackout poems are made by picking out single words or phrases from existing text, pieced together to make something new.

This activity embraces randomness and gives you the chance to mix poetry and visual art together.

1. Choose the source material you are going to use: newspaper, magazine or book.
2. Select one page to work on.
3. Scan the page for a theme word to inspire your poem.
4. After choosing the word or words that stand out as a theme, read the page again carefully and lightly circle with a pencil – choose words that connect to your theme or resonate with you.
5. You should circle words in the order they appear and try to not pick more than three words in a row. Try to pick words that work on their own.
6. After choosing the words, read back through the poem to decide if you need to add more words or remove some.
7. After deciding on the final words, draw around them in pen and erase any pencil circles around words not used.
8. Create an image that compliments the wording of your poetry and links to your theme.
9. Share your poem with other people and chat about what the poem means to you.
10. Once you have created your first blackout poem, try to do another to see if it is easier the second time round.

### Additional Information

Scout material makes a great source material for this artwork.



Make tea, ride a bicycle and penny-whistle. For knowledge is in the senses.



### Reflection

This activity is about trying new things.

- What do you normally think about poetry?
- Was this activity actually poetry?

This message is also about communication:

- What message did your poem give?
- Did the words match your initial theme?
- Is it easier to transform the pre-printed page into a poem or write a poem from scratch?

### Safety

The only safety consideration is the suitability of the printed material used – make sure all the words are appropriate to use and ask permission before you cut up any printed material, especially books that could belong to others.

**All Activities are taken from the Scout Association's Great IN Doors programme.**