Blackout Poetry

No inspiration for creating poetry? No problem! Blackout poetry is an easy way to revamp books, magazines, and newspapers into original artworks. This activity was inspired by January’s annual Poetry Out Loud event on Third Thursday. Poetry Out Loud is a performance event allowing high school students to perform and transform poetic works.

There are hundreds of different types and styles of poetry, but Blackout Poetry is unique. Blackout poems use words already on the page, and cross out unused words to create new meaning.

**For this activity you will need:**
- A Pencil
- A Black marker or pen
- An old book, magazine or newspaper

**Step 1:** Skim through your book to find a page with interesting words. Remove the page and set aside.

**Step 2:** Using a pencil, circle interesting words you want to keep. After circling some of the words, you can get an idea of the story you want to tell.

**Step 3:** Once you have your ‘story’ in place, use a black marker to cross out the other words on the page. Do this step carefully, as you can’t erase the marker.

**Step 4:** Erase any pencil marks and read through your new blackout poem.