Found Poem Construction

Introduction: One of the ways to understand themes, tone, characterization, conflict, and plot development in a piece of literature is to use words from the text to create an original poem. To create such a "Found" poem, readers select and combine/arrange memorable words and phrases from a text to create or "find" a poem. This will also allow you as a reader to attain a stronger sense of the value of words and phrases in creating themes, tone, characterization, conflict, and plot development in a major work. For this poem, you will be using a chapter of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Objectives: Completion of this assignment will allow readers to achieve the following:
* recognize the importance of diction in the creation of theme, tone, and development of character, conflict, and plot;
* composition of an original poem through the synthesis of words from *A Tale of Two Cities*;
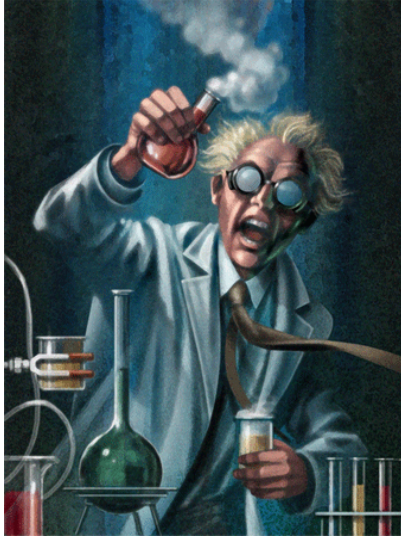* demonstrate personal interpretation of theme, tone, and development of character, conflict, and plot;

Procedure: To create a "Found" poem, follow these steps:
1. Look at the sample (below) of a Found poem inspired by Chapter IV of *Frankenstein*;
2. Look through your selected chapter of *A Tale of Two Cities*, making a list (on scrap paper-- also known as penzu) of remarkable or interesting words/phrases;
3. Based on your list of words/phrases, decide what the topic of your poem will be (a character, thematic topic, element of tone or plot, etc.);
4. Select the words and phrases from your list that will work with your chosen topic and combine them into poetic form (lines and stanzas)--you may change word order and verb tense, you may repeat words (for emphasis), but you may not add any of your own words. Part of this exercise is to use the words of the text to illustrate understanding and interpretation. Revise as needed (eliminating or adding words and lines). Aim for a poem of 16-20 lines long.
5. Open up your class period's slide presentation in Google Docs. Choose a blank slide in the presentation. Type or paste your poem into the text box (make sure your text size allows the full poem to fit on the slide), and let the title be "From Book___, Chapter ___--fill in with your assigned book & chapter number(s). Find a picture that goes with the main idea of your "found" poem, save it to your desktop, and then insert it onto your slide (under the "Insert" menu, choose IMAGE and follow uploading instructions from there).
6. Save your slide and exit the slideshow.

Chapters you may select from: Book the First: V, VI; Book the Second: II, VII, VIII, IX, XV, XVI, XXi, XXII, XXIII, XXIV; Book the Third: II, V, VI, VIII, XIV, XV.

Found Poem Example:

"From Chapter IV"

Alone
In one pursuit--
The pursuit of knowledge
I found continual food for discovery and wonder,
Alone
Labor and fatigue
My soul occupation
The energy of my purpose alone sustained me.
When did the principle of life succeed?
Lifeless matter
Profane fingers
Food for the worms
Corruption of the body
From the midst of darkness, a sudden light broke in upon me.
Secret knowledge
The summit of my desires
Supreme delight
Alone
A slow fever
Nervous
Shunned
Guilty
I AM *NOT*
A MADMAN.