

Name:

Date:

Period:

## Found Poem

**Assignment:** Found poems give you a chance to look closely at the richness of ordinary prose. Poetry is hidden in things that are said and written. In studying *The Pearl*, you will choose a passage from the novel to convert into poetry.

### Directions:

1. Choose an excerpt (passage) from the novel that is rich in imagery and detail. Narrow it down so that your passage is 50-100 words.
2. Reread the passage.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of the details, words, and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting. Look at what you underlined.
4. Keep the words in the order that you found them. Double space between lines so that the lines are easy to work with. Feel free to add others that you notice as you go through the prose piece again.
5. As you look over the shortened list, think about the tone that the details and diction (word choice) convey. What new images or ideas are emerging from these words?
6. Study the words that you found. Cut out the dull, unnecessary words. You can change punctuation and make little changes to the words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalizations).
7. When you're close to an edited down version, if you absolutely need to add a word or two to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, to make a point, *you may add up to two words of your own*. That's two (2) and only two!
8. Read back over your edited draft one more time and make any deletions or minor changes.
9. Check the words and phrases and choose a title—there is a better one than “Found Poem.”
10. Copy the words and phrases on notebook paper or type up. Space or arrange the words so that they're poem-like. Pay attention to line breaks, layout (think shape poems!), and other elements that will emphasize important words or significant ideas in the poem. You can vary font size, type faces, and even add italics.
11. At the bottom of the poem, tell where the words in the poem came from. Ex: *The Pearl*, page \_\_\_\_ .