

Write an original found poem using a Romantic era prose selection.

Expectations:

1. Write a found poem of no less than twelve and no more than twenty lines.
2. Make sure that your poem has a theme, that it actually says something to you and to your audience of peers and teacher. Underneath your poem, type both the theme statement and source. Follow the example shown.
3. For this particular version of found poetry, you will use a Romantic-era prose selection as your source. Sources include:

- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- Mary Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (literature book, p. 701, or <http://ouallinator.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/A-Vindication-of-the-Rights-of-Woman-exerpt.pdf>)
- Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (selections in literature book, p. 724)
- Dorothy Wordsworth's journal excerpt (literature book, p. 751)
- Excerpt from *The History of Mary Prince, a West African Slave* (<http://ouallinator.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/History-of-Mary-Prince.pdf>)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge's essay, "On the Slave Trade" (<http://ouallinator.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/On-the-Slave-Trade.pdf>)
- William Wordsworth's "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads" (<http://www.bartleby.com/39/36.html>)
- Percy Bysshe Shelley's *A Defence of Poetry and Other Essays* (<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5428/5428-h/5428-h.htm>)
- Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (<http://ouallinator.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Wuthering-Heights.pdf>)

How to Write a Found Poem (adapted from *Read-Write-Think*):

1. Carefully read the prose text you have chosen and look for 50-100 words that stand out in the passage. Highlight or underline words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting. Note especially examples that reflect your feelings about the topic that you have explored for this poetry anthology.
2. On a separate piece of paper, make a list of the words and phrases you highlighted/underlined, keeping them in the order that you found them. Double space between lines are easy to work with. Feel free to add others that you notice as you go through the prose piece again.
3. Look back over your list and cut out everything that is dull or unnecessary, or anything that does not seem appropriate for the topic of your poem.
4. As you look over the shortened list, think about the tone that the words convey. The words should all relate to the idea or message that you are trying to send through your poem.
5. Make minor changes that are necessary to create a meaningful poem. You can make changes to punctuation, verb tenses, possession, plurals, capitalization, and add short words like articles, pronouns, and prepositions where needed. You may also choose to change around the order of your words and phrases to create a more coherent thought.
6. As you type your poem into a Word Processor, think about ways to space or arrange your poem that is meaningful. Consider line breaks, stanzas, indention, and other variations on form.
7. Title your poem.
8. Under your poem, type a theme statement and your source for the prose passage.

Mrs. Strawn's example:

A Belief in the Marvellous

When my soul's depressed by hardship
By regret's evil forebodings
my faults suffered here
and the dejection of forbidden faded fear

My imagination envisions
With ardent curiosity
A country of eternal lights
A land surpassing celestial sights

I commence my journey with joy
An expedition of discovery
To seek the wonders of paradise
Visions of glory, bitter thoughts tranquillize

Source: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Letters I and II

Theme: Though human suffering on earth causes mental unrest, believing in the majesty of heaven brings peace and comfort to the weary and broken.