Blackout Poetry Assignment

• Blackout Poetry is a form of “found poetry” in which poems are created from the words of an existing piece of writing.
• You will use 1 to 2 pages from The Things They Carried to create a black-out poem as a response to what you have read so far.
• Don’t retell the story, just try to capture ideas and feelings created by the text.
• Be creative!

Steps in Creating Blackout Poetry

1. Use pencil to underline words you might use.
2. Circle words that you definitely want to use.
3. Use a marker to black out all of the other words.
4. Title your poem.
5. Mount your poem on construction paper. It will be displayed, so make it look nice.
6. On the back: write your complete heading. Describe and explain your poem in at least 3 sentences. Prove to me it is more than just random words.
What are Novel Blackout Poems?

- Poems, sentences, or phrases created from the words of an existing novel.
- Inspired by Austin Kleon’s Newspaper Blackout Poems.
Blackout poetry is a form of "found" poetry that allows the poet to use someone else's words to write a poem.
Using a **photocopied** page or 2 from *The Things They Carried*, you are going to create a poem inspired by this novel.

Your poem can be about the particular scene from the book or, preferably, about any feelings or images that come to mind when you think about the soldiers’ experiences.
How to Make a Blackout Poem

it's great to hear people say they're a fan.

I'm saving those up for when this is over.

www.austinkleon.com
How to Create a Novel
Blackout Poem

Step #1

- Underline (in pencil) words you think you might like to use in your poem.
• Circle the words you know you want to use in the poem.
The Easy Part

Step #3

• Black out everything else.
Tips

- Be creative.
- Scribble, draw.
- Can't find the exact word you need? Use letters from several words to create the word you need!
- Try to go back and forth between the pages.
More Examples
Children are asked to fill in the blank poem the school has drafted a recipe for the perfect one

'Forbidden'

Listen and weep, hysterically, to that voice

The problem
is that

His heart

requires violence,

sidetracked

gets

B Y

posse of gangsters.

fallo in love

whose wedding

has spoiled,

in the near future on an assassination mission.

a kung fu master
Plates.

Forks

for formal occasions

with

butter

The

are

A few

may

of

Favorite

than Great