

Day 75: Wednesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 20

Found Poems: A “found” poem is a poem made up entirely of phrases or quotations found in another text. Found poems can be constructed from anything from phrases you find in an instruction manual to phrases you find in a book of hymns.

Instructions:

Flip through the book write down 12-15 words or phrases that you find intriguing, striking, or particularly resonant.

When you are ready, arrange your words and phrases on separate lines in a way that appeals to you. Remember that new ideas or images can be created when unlike phrases are juxtaposed. Line breaks can be used to great effect, so experiment with breaking lines in different places before you decide on final positions. Your poem can be in free verse or—assuming you can find enough rhyming words in the text (it *is* possible)—in rhyme. The poem must be at least ten lines long. There is no restriction as to line length.

Play around with and separate Wiesel’s words as much as you like, but do not deviate from them: part of the fun of this exercise is in creating something “new” from something that was already there. Below, to serve as an example, is the beginning of a found poem made up of words and phrases from Chapter 3.

Example:

The spring sunshine
A beautiful April day
In the sky a few white clouds
In the morning, black coffee
Little gardens here and there
At noon, soup
Right out in the country
On the sunny road
A beautiful April day
The spring sunshine
My sister’s fair hair
Turned into ashes...

