



## Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry Competition Teaching Resources for Secondary Schools

### About

The annual county-wide search for tomorrow's famous poets has begun!

Canterbury Festival's poetry competition is open all pupils within Kent schools, with age categories 5-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-15 years and 16-18 years. The deadline for entries is **Friday 21 July**.

Entries are shortlisted by a panel of judges, with the top entries printed in an anthology. The competition culminates in a celebration event on **Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>** with readings from our published poets and prizes for the winners of each category. This event precedes the adult Poet of the Year awards evening.

We look forward to receiving your school's entries!

Each entry must include the following details:-

Teacher's Name:

Student's Name:

School Name:

School Address:

Age on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019:

Entries must be sent in the post to:

Charlotte Chapman  
Canterbury Festival  
8 Orange Street  
Canterbury KENT CT1 2JA

### This Year's Theme

The theme of the 2019 Canterbury Festival School's Poetry Competition is **MOON VOYAGE** – inspired by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

We hope this theme will be widely interpreted by applicants, using this resource as starting point to create their own original and imaginative poems.

The resource uses varied creative-writing techniques to enable access into poetry writing for all abilities, being highly visual and less reliant on individual academic levels for success.



## Examples of Cut-Ups



## Cut-Ups in Culture

The Cut-Up technique has often been attributed to William Burroughs, or the Dadaist Art Movement, both closely associated with poet Brion Gysin. Brion Gysin was part of the Surrealist group in Paris and believed no words were owned, all were free to be repurposed from existing texts to create new poetry.

## The Cut-Up Method explained on film

William Burroughs explains the method in this two-minute film on youtube:

[https://youtu.be/nK6\\_v4G0L6s](https://youtu.be/nK6_v4G0L6s)

Many popular musicians have used the technique to write lyrics, including David Bowie, Mick Jagger and Brian Eno. David Bowie used the technique to write Moonage Daydream.

## Moonage Daydream by David Bowie (extract)

*Keep your 'lectric eye on me babe  
Put your ray gun to my head  
Press your space face close to mine  
Freak out in a moonage daydream oh yeah*

## Apollo Themed Playlist

Click on link below for a playlist students may enjoy while working on their poems. It includes artists known to have used Cut-Ups, and all tracks relate to the **Moon Voyage** theme:

<https://open.spotify.com/user/nickreynolds/playlist/0z35DaJql3YB9Fz9vkdIzz?si=eRU9XBvuQ-eB0eLoJ9jN5w>

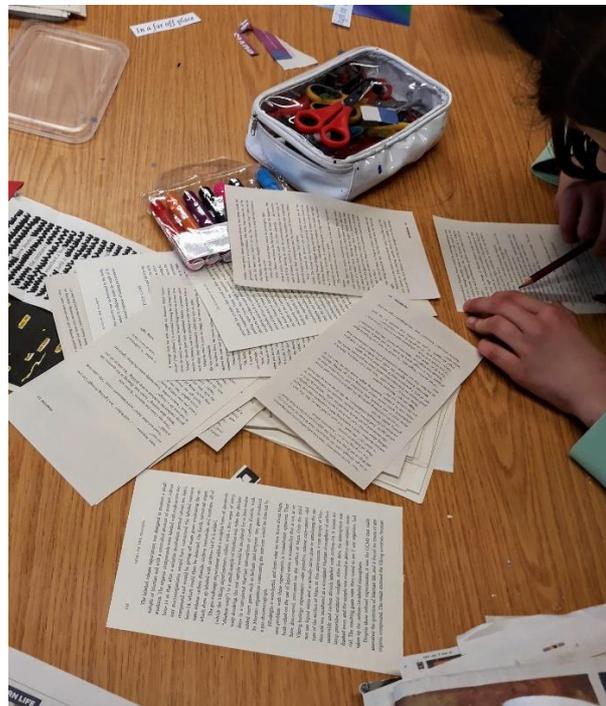
## Blackout Poetry

Students will need the following:

- Pages cut from secondhand books and paperbacks as source material. Biographies of the Apollo astronauts for younger readers, space stories and related texts are readily available cheaply online. Charity shops are another good source. Two paperbacks would cover a class of 30.
- Pencils, rubbers and chisel-tipped black marker pens.

Students select a page from available books and using a pencil to circle random words on the page, they build new meaning from seemingly unconnected words.

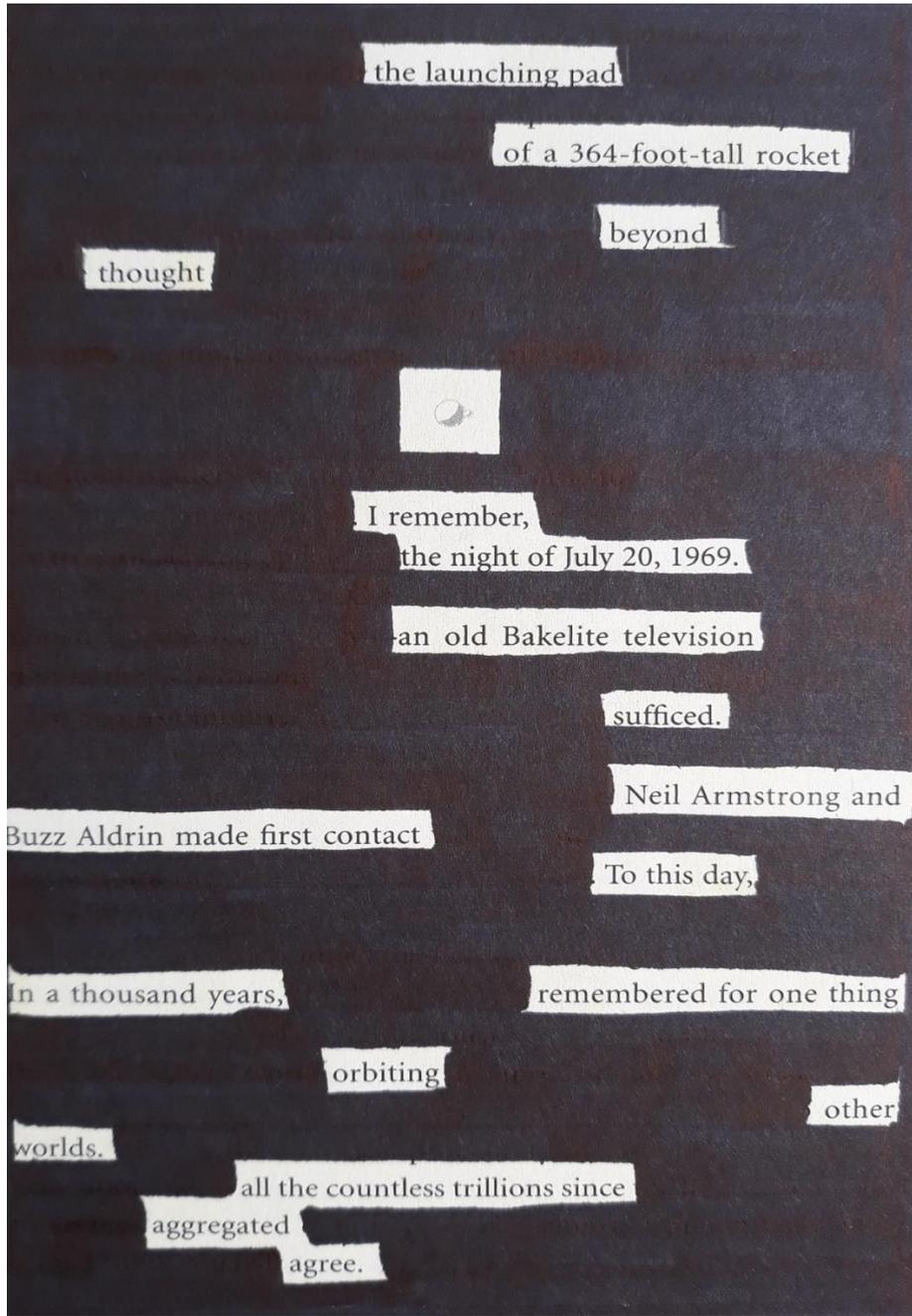
Once the words and phrases have been selected, the remaining unwanted text is 'blacked out' with the marker pen.



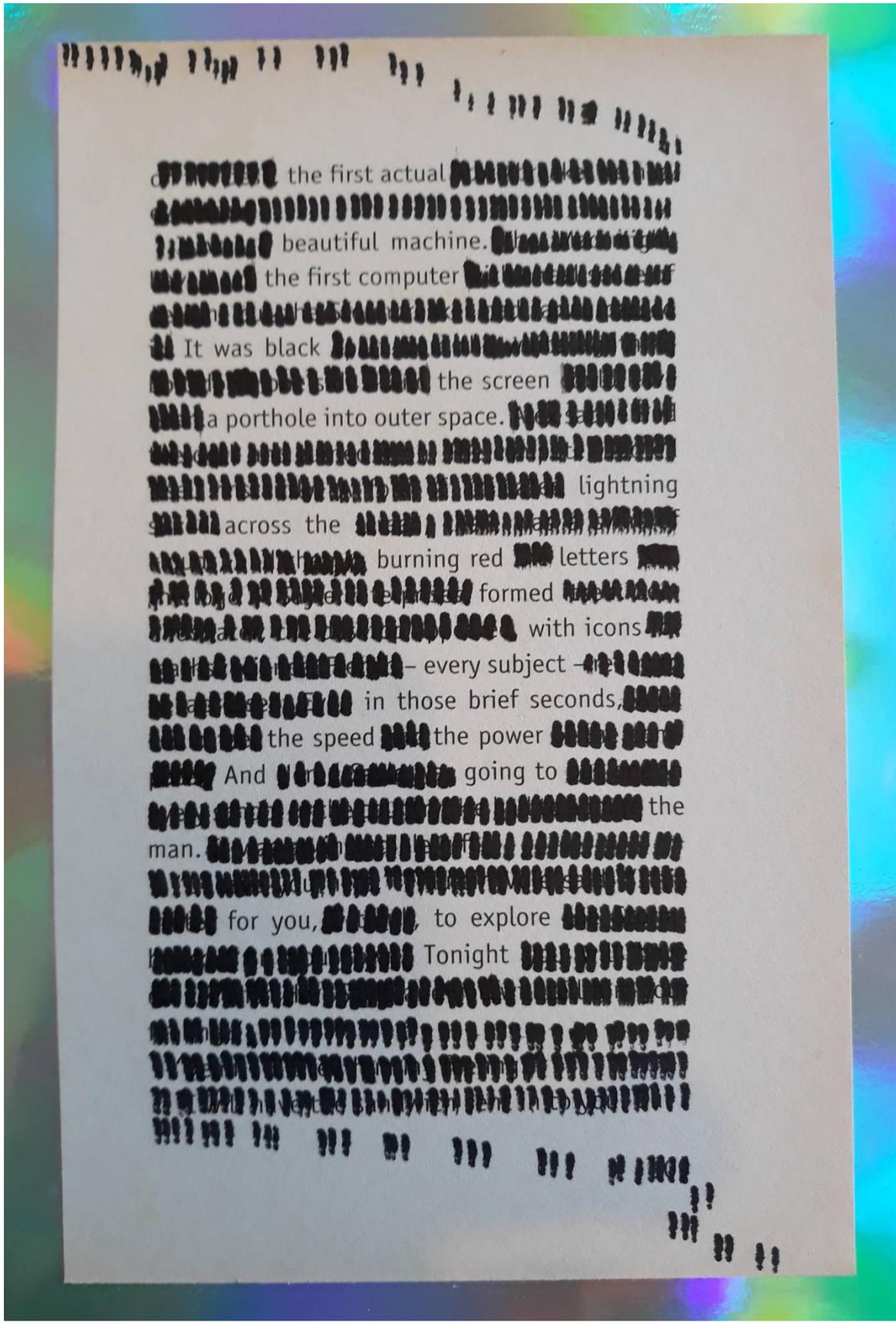
The text left on the page often has a surreal quality and the more the students are encouraged to experiment, rather than imposing what they think 'makes sense' - the better!

It is best to recommend using a pencil first to underline the words and phrases the student wants to use, as going straight in with the marker pen often results in losing a word you may have wanted to keep as you move down the text. It also creates a path down the page, reading left to right from top to bottom, that is needed for the final poem.

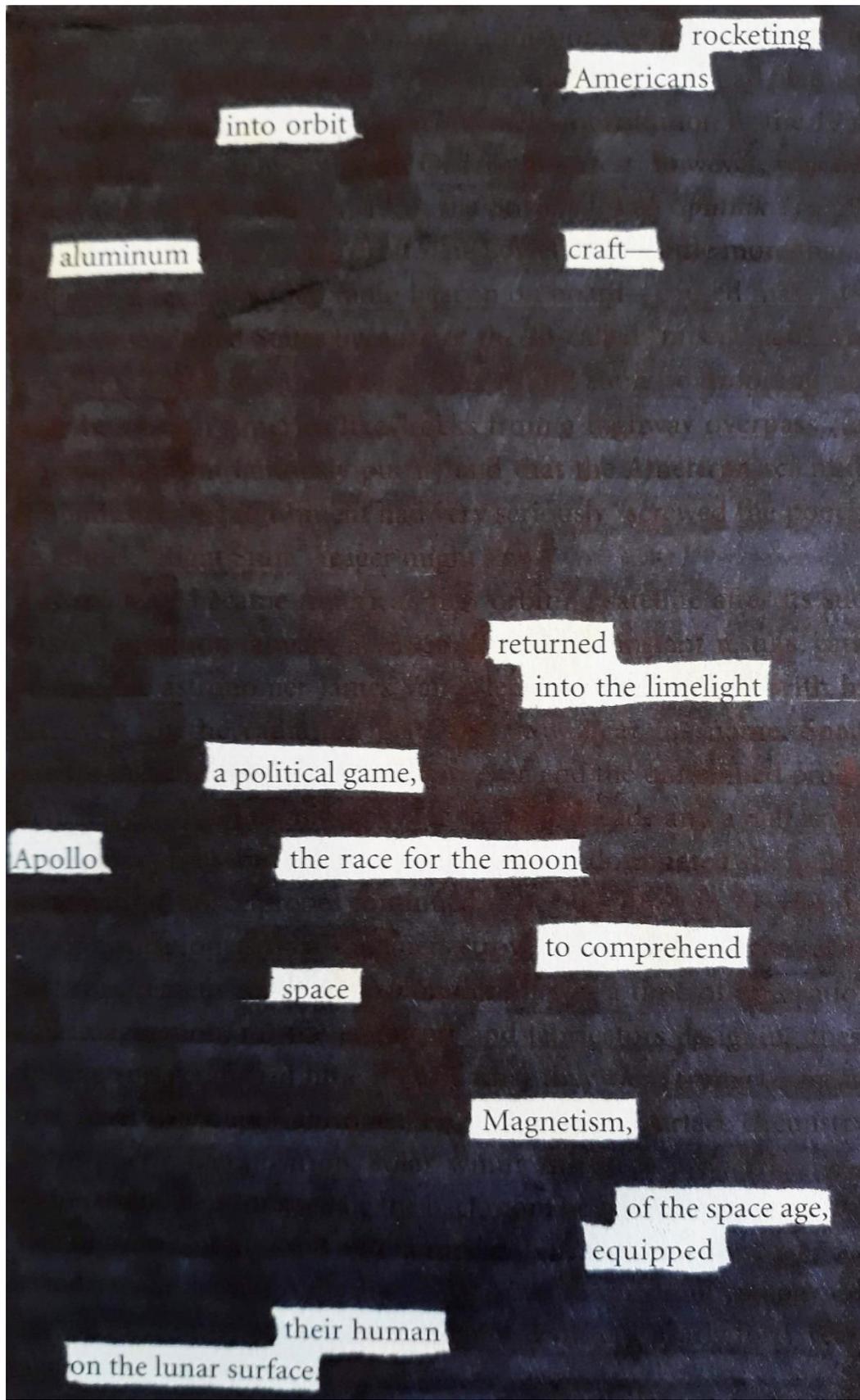
### Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



## **Fold & Cut-Up Technique**

Using randomly selected pages from paperback pages used in Blackout exercise, fold in half, half again, three times until you have divided the page into 8 sections. Cut along fold lines. Do this for several pages until you have enough segments to shuffle like cards. Rearrange pieces back together and find interesting lines to use in your poem.

## **Haiku Space Poetry**

“Haiku” is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of three lines. The first and last line consist of five syllables, the middle line has seven syllables. A haiku does not have to rhyme.

### **Space Haikus by Gert Strydom**

Satellite observe  
mist cloud unexpectedly  
reactor flaming.

Big eye satellite  
look at our activities  
on the sandy beach.

Big space telescope  
tuned fine on solar system  
looks for small angels.

### **NASA Research Scientist Barbara Cohen’s Haiku**

Apollo brought us  
History in their gloved hands  
Tiny rocky clocks

**We hope some of these techniques will get you started on your poetry and look forward to receiving your entries!**



Resource devised by  
Steph Avery-Reynolds at Sailor Made Arts  
For Canterbury Festival Schools’ Poetry Competition 2019



[sailormadearts](https://www.instagram.com/sailormadearts)

LANDING **landing** landing high  
**landing** APOLLO Apollo Apollo  
**Apollo** Apollo APOLLO **Apollo**  
**Rocket** rocket **ROCKET** rocket  
rocket star **star** **STAR** Star **star**  
**Orbit** **ORBIT** orbit **orbit** **orbit**  
orbit **astronauts** fly **ASTRONAUTS**  
**sky** astronauts sky **astronauts**  
astronauts flying **FLYING** high  
high flight fly fly **sky** **Moon** fly  
**moon** moon **moon** **MOON** moon  
Space space **outer** **space** SPACE  
space **SPACE** outer space **space**  
**Mission** **mission** mission sky **high**  
**mission** **Earth** **planet** planet fly  
**earth** earth **planet** module **module**  
module dust **module** **dust** **dust**  
module **dust** **lunar** **lunar** lunar sky