

## **ERASURE POETRY: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY EXERCISE**

---

Erasure poetry is a form of “found poetry” or “found art” created by erasing words from an existing text. The words that are left un-erased become a poem.

### The Poem:

1. Read the text provided.
2. Read the text again, but this time, begin to cross out words at random as you read. Do not overthink this “erasure” process; there is no right or wrong way in choosing which words will be erased.
3. Read the text a third time and focus on the words that are left. Begin to think about how to make sense of these words. Are they starting to form a new sentence, a poem, a story? As you read, start to cross out more words in order to form your poem.

### The Performance:

Read your poem out loud to the class. You may choose to stand, to sit, to use hand gestures and facial features while you read your poem. Consider how loud you speak, or when you choose to soften your voice, when you decide to pause, and which words to emphasize.

### The Drawing:

1. Select ten words from your poem that can be visualized or drawn. Write these ten words on the left page of your sketchbook.
2. On the right page of your sketchbook, start to draw one of the words on the list. The drawing does not have to be literal or realistic.
3. Pass your sketchbook to the person to your right as you receive a sketchbook from a person to your left. Look at the list of words on the left page of the sketchbook and choose one word you would like to draw. On the right page of the sketchbook, draw this word and integrate it with the existing drawing.