Found Poem Instructions

• Find a couple random paragraph from a newspaper, magazine, book, etc. The selection should contain 100-200 words. You can also try recipe instructions, legal notices, and horoscopes.

• Read through your selection.

• Highlight or underline words, lines, etc that seem promising to you.

• Use what you selected to write a poem.

• You may add your own words, but no more than 50% of final poem may include new words.

• Your poem may be of any length, but it must focus on a single idea and be meaningful to you.

HINTS:
• Your does not need to be about the original topic.
• Each line does not need to be a complete sentence; experiment with ending lines in mid sentence and continuing on next line.
• Pay attention to how the poem looks on the page, the length of lines, how line are grouped, etc.
• Have a single idea in mind to help your poem come together.
• Try repeating lines or single words throughout poem.
• It is possible to create a poem without adding new words.