Found Poetry

Finding Poetry in New Places
Found Poetry

✓ Found poetry is poetry that you create using words from non-poetry sources
  ✓ Newspaper articles
  ✓ Novels
  ✓ Short stories
  ✓ Advertisements
How It Works

✓ Read something that has words in it
✓ Look for words or phrases, in whatever order, that you find powerful, moving, or interesting
✓ Make a list of those words or cut them out
✓ Go through your words and eliminate the ones you don’t like or don’t fit
  ✓ Think about the overall feeling (tone) of your final list
How It Works

✓ Take the words you have and arrange them in a way that makes a poem
✓ You can add punctuation, letters, tense changes
✓ Arrange the words so that they make a rhythm you like
There was a change in the weather.
For the worse.
The air became unbearably humid. Stanley was drenched in sweat. Beads of moisture ran down the handle of his shovel. It was almost as if the temperature had gotten so hot that the air itself was sweating.

A loud boom of thunder echoed across the empty lake. A storm was way off to the west, beyond the mountains. Stanley could count more than thirty seconds between how far away the storm was. Sound travels a great distance across a barren wasteland.
An Example: Found Poem

Holes
There was a change
For the worse.
The air became humid
Beads of moisture ran down
The handle of his shovel
It was almost as if
The air itself was sweating
Thunder echoed across the empty lake
A storm beyond the mountains.
Thirty seconds between the flash
And the thunder
Sound travels a great distance
Across a barren wasteland
Two More Examples

Both From Newspapers
Unlikely Faces
Fading
In Pursuit of Promises
Precarious
Currents in a
Bitter River

-Carol Ja'go
The boy's firm Father faced the two federal partners, and with his plentiful profits easily paid off the final payments. The community Company came and caught the crime pair, and will send the men up North to put Penguins in ponds.

Amanda LaFond
Star Tribune, May 3,
Now It’s Your Turn!

✓ Find a particular passage you liked from *Jane Eyre*
✓ Grab a newspaper
✓ Start cutting words, phrases, punctuation that you can use for your poem
✓ When you have 30 or so words, go through your words and eliminate the ones that don’t work
✓ Put the ones that do work into a poem
✓ The poem must reflect a tone found somewhere throughout *Jane Eyre*.