

Mentor Text

Read the Mentor Text, “Cento Between the Ending and the End” by Cameron Awkward-Rich (originally published on August 30, 2018). Then, read the “About This Poem” box. On page 3, write down at least 5 texts (songs, books, screenplays) that inspire you.

Cento Between the Ending and the End

by Cameron Awkward-Rich

Sometimes you don't die
when you're supposed to
& now I have a choice
repair a world or build
a new one inside my body
a white door opens
into a place queerly brimming
gold light so velvet-gold
it is like the world
hasn't happened
when I call out
all my friends are there
everyone we love
is still alive gathered
at the lakeside
like constellations

my honeyed kin
honeyed light
beneath the sky
a garden blue stalks
white buds the moon's
marble glow the fire
distant & flickering
the body whole bright-
winged brimming
with the hours
of the day beautiful
nameless planet. Oh
friends, my friends—
bloom how you must, wild
until we are free.

About This Poem:

“Cento Between the Ending and the End’ is composed of language scavenged from the works of Justin Phillip Reed, Hieu Minh Nguyen, Fatimah Asghar, Kaveh Akbar, Sam Sax, Ari Baniyas, C. Bain, Oliver Bendorff, Hanif Abdurraqib, Safia Elhillo, Danez Smith, Ocean Vuong, Franny Choi, Lucille Clifton, and Nate Marshall. All of whom have made for me a world and for whom I wish the world.”

—Cameron Awkward-Rich

Random Word Selection: Text 1

Choose 1 of the texts you wrote about on page 3. Then, flip to a random page and write down the first word or phrase you see. Repeat this step until you have 10 total words from this text.

Name of Text: _____

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Random Word Selection: Text 2

Choose 1 of the texts you wrote about on page 3. Then, flip to a random page and write down the first word or phrase you see. Repeat this step until you have 10 total words from this text.

Name of Text: _____

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Random Word Selection: Text 3

Choose 1 of the texts you wrote about on page 3. Then, flip to a random page and write down the first word or phrase you see. Repeat this step until you have 10 total words from this text.

Name of Text: _____

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Random Word Selection: Text 4

Choose 1 of the texts you wrote about on page 3. Then, flip to a random page and write down the first word or phrase you see. Repeat this step until you have 10 total words from this text.

Name of Text: _____

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Random Word Selection: Text 5

Choose 1 of the texts you wrote about on page 3. Then, flip to a random page and write down the first word or phrase you see. Repeat this step until you have 10 total words from this text.

Name of Text: _____

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Your Cento Poem

Finally, write your cento poem. Write the precise words and phrases, in the order you decided on. Add in small words like, “the” or “and” where they’re needed. Continue in your writing journal if you need more space.
