National Poetry Day, 3rd October, 2019

Truth Poetry

Truth Text Erasure

Erasure is found poetry – finding a new text inside an existing text.

In this writing approach you are going to find a poem inside a text taken from Wikipedia [or similar of your making] which gives a definition of the meaning of *Truth*.

The best way to see and understand how this writing approach works is to look at the 3 different examples already completed using this 'Truth' text.

In the first, the text is found/manipulated simply in Word [and should be similar in other word/writing processors and systems]; the second is found/manipulated in Paint in Word [and there will be similar, even 'better' software you might know how to use!], and the third is good, old-fashioned hand drawing/colouring and so on!

The next step is to have a go! Here are some tips:

1. select individual or small units of words – this helps to not just repeat large chunks of the original, and find new/different meanings from that original
2. select words that come chronologically from the text
3. selecting these words across the whole page in a linear way helps the reader to follow – it can slow the reading which puts focus on those words and their new/different meanings
4. what you write does not have to make literal sense, but it must make grammatical sense

The 3 examples of this erasure/found process should help to make sense of the above four points.

Your completed poem can be presented exactly as it is – highlighted in various technical or physical ways – or you can type your found poem up entirely on its own [see following examples].

The 'erasure' process of this writing approach is in the highlighting of your new text, where the background is made less distinct, or the background has been completely erased. If artistically inclined you can also erase the unused text with illustration, painting, collage and/or technical means. Found poems as just text:

1.

*a truth
is where
everyday life*

is reality

*whether
true or
false*

2.

*is truth
assumed
as itself*

*whether
varying or
absolute*

3.

*sometimes
truth is
most human*

*sometimes
truth is
humans at play*

You may prefer your found poem in this conventional presentation. Or if you also find three different poems from the same text, presenting like this provides an immediate narrative to read.

However, a found poem discovered on the page can have more of an impact when read across that whole page.

The choice is yours. Whatever your final decision, you shouldn't miss out on the fun of physically finding an erasure poem in an existing text. It is a way of taking over the original and making it your own, especially when you actually erase much of that original.