

ACTIVITY: Blackout Poetry

Now that you have studied the negotiations of the Treaty of Long Island on the Holston River, consider this time in the State's relations with the Cherokee Tribe. How do you feel about it? How did it alter history?

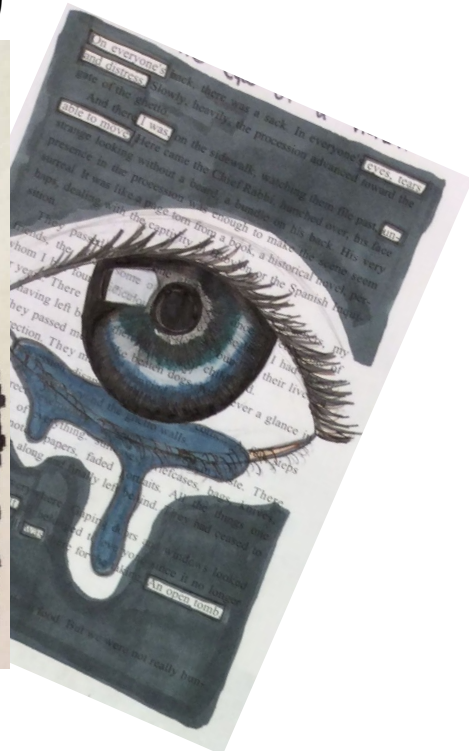
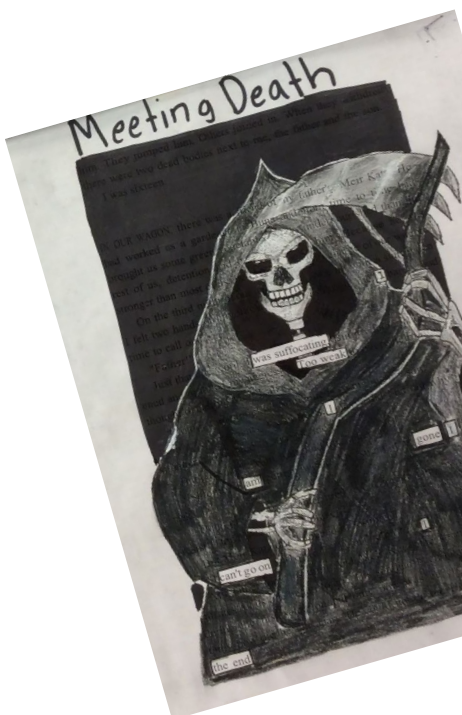
Reflect: How does the war with the Cherokee on the western boundary (1776-1777) affect your view of North Carolina's fight for statehood and freedom from colonial rule?

Choose a speech from the treaty negotiations for your creation. Lightly underline words and phrases that stand out to you in pencil. Look for words that might echo how you feel about this history, words that might contrast with your feelings, or words that paint vivid pictures about this time.

Starting at the top of the page, read only the words you've chosen. Does it make sense? Go back and look for articles and other connecting words to help it flow. Erase the underlining for words you don't want and adjust until you have the meaning you desire.

Using these elements, create a piece of blackout poetry. Put a box around the words you've chosen. When you have finished, consider how you might add images or color to highlight the message your poem sends. Then darken the rest of the page to cover the other words, leaving yours to stand out.

Examples of blackout poetry



Images courtesy of Sharanda Payseur.