



VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Workshop: *Erasure Poetry (Digital)*

Teaching Artist: Eric Elshtain

Learn about erasure poetry and the different techniques that can be used to create an erasure poem. You will also learn about poets who use these techniques in their art, and will draw inspiration from them to create your own erasure poetry in a digital format.



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| OBJECTIVES & MATERIALS | Page 1 |
| DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING METHODS | Page 2 |
| BACKGROUND RESOURCES | Page 3 |
| INSTRUCTION | Page 4-9 |
| LEARNING STANDARDS | Page 10 |



OBJECTIVES:

You will learn:

- The definition of erasure poetry, and how you can create your own in a digital format
- Different techniques and styles of erasure poetry
- How erasure can become social and political commentary
- About several different poets and how they incorporate erasure poetry techniques

MATERIALS:

- A laptop, iPad, smartphone, or smart device with access to the Internet and Microsoft Word



DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING Methods

Instruction is provided in text and video formats, available in both Spanish and English.

You may also work by printing this art-making guide.

YouTube can automatically create closed captions.



Click the [CC] button near the lower right corner of the viewer frame.

Please note: captions are generated by algorithms, so their quality may vary.

Workshop Duration: 25-45 Minutes | ALL LEVELS

A variety of language subtitles are available for each video.



- **If you are visually impaired, you can make choices orally to a friend or family member. The result can be recorded rather than written down.** Additionally, the source text can be an excerpt from an audiobook; with repeated listenings, your friend or family member can assist you in recording your choices. You can “erase” the text by not reading it out loud.
- **If you are unable to use a computer, this project can be completed on a smart phone.** Unwanted text can be “erased” using the “mark-up” function in the Photos app.
- **If you do not have access to a smart device, this project may still be completed.** Check out “Erasure Poetry (Analog)” for instructions.



BACKGROUND/RESOURCES

You will be introduced to these artists, art histories, movements and/or concepts:

Erasure poetry: a form of found poetry wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text, creating a wholly new work from what remains

Opacity/transparency: the level of visibility of an object

Photopea: a free-to-use, browser-based alternative to Photoshop. We will use it today to showcase a digital erasure technique. (www.photopea.com)



INSTRUCTION:

Today's Project:
Erasure Poetry
(Part 2 - Digital)



Today, we will work together to compose a short poem. You will be able to do it, even if you have never written a poem before.

Erasure Poetry:

a form of found poetry, wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text, creating a wholly new work from what remains.



Today, I want to show you a technique called **erasure poetry**. Erasure poetry is a form of found poetry wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text.

Erasure Poetry:

a form of found poetry, wherein a poet takes an existing text and erases, blacks out, or otherwise obscures a large portion of the text, creating a wholly new work from what remains.



This creates a wholly new work from what remains.

Erasure Poetry may be used...

as a means of collaboration, creating a new text from an old one; and thereby starting a dialog between the two.



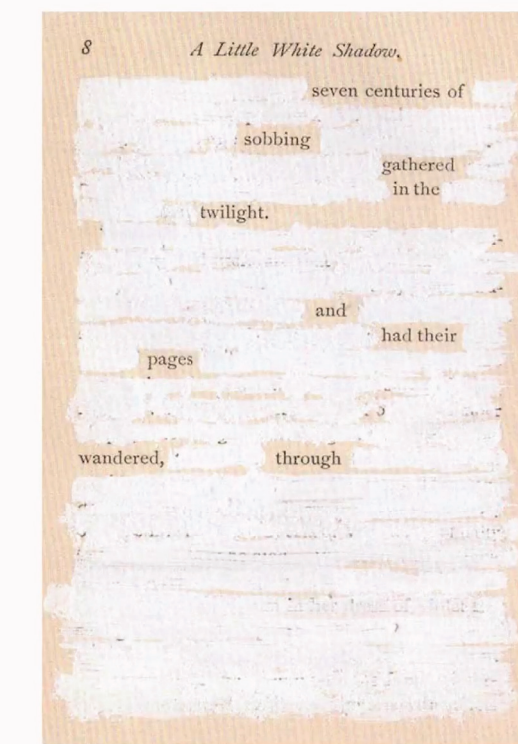
Erasure poetry may be used as a means of collaboration, creating a new text from an old one and thereby starting a dialogue between the two.

Erasure Poetry may be used...

as a means of confrontation, a challenge to a pre-existing text.



It may also be used as a means of confrontation—a challenge to a pre-existing text.



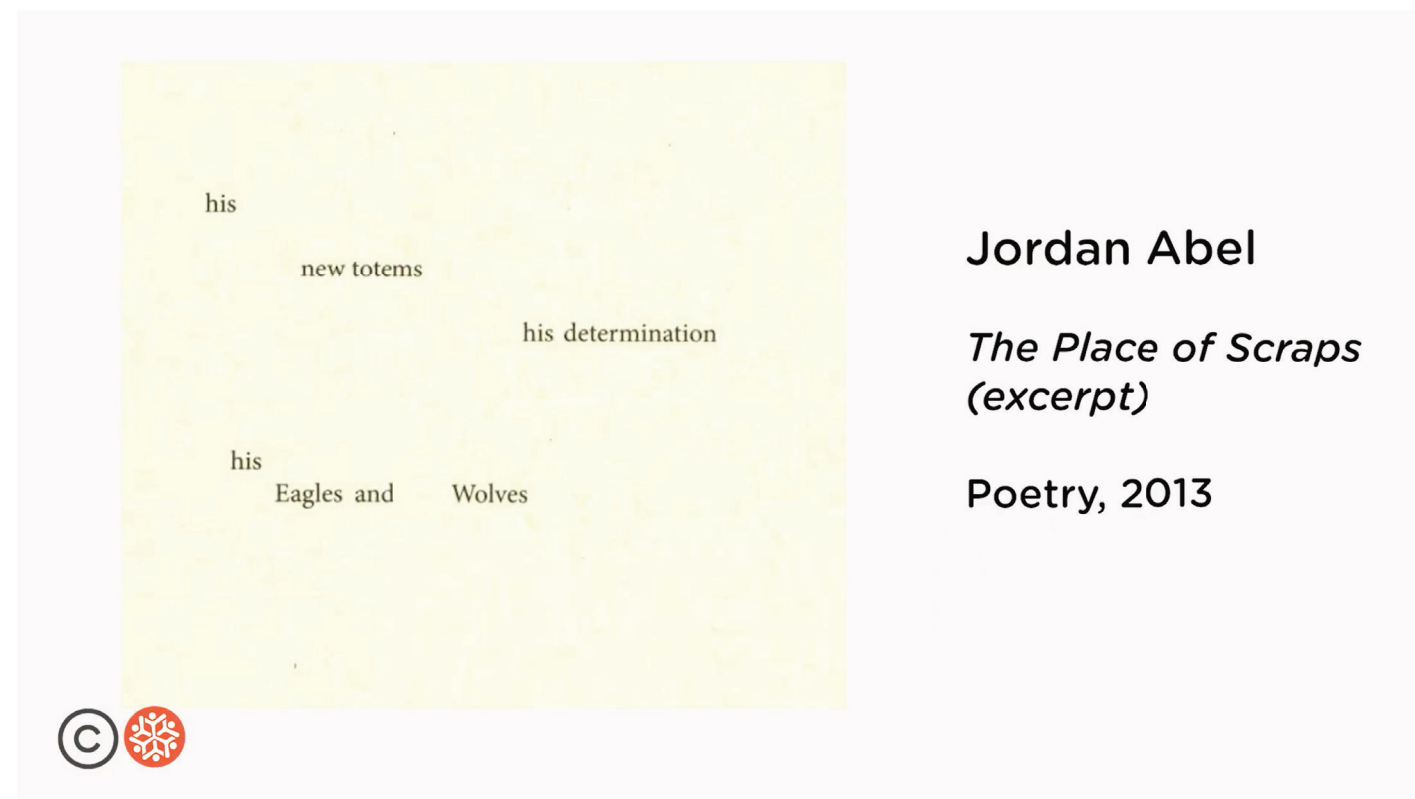
Mary Ruefle
A Little White Shadow
(excerpt)
Poetry, 2006



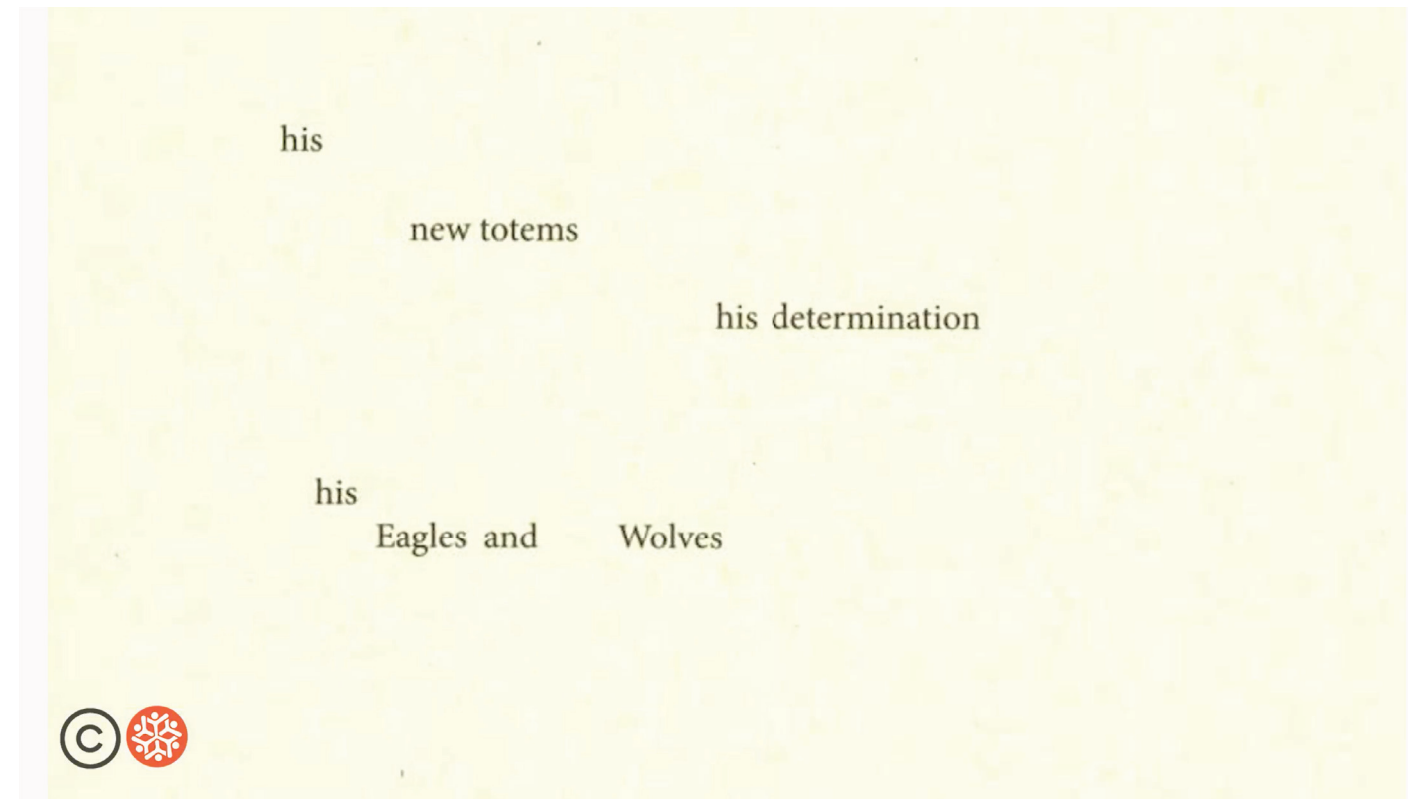
Instead of covering over sections of the source text, a poet might literally erase portions, leaving negative—or blank—space surrounding the remaining words and phrases.



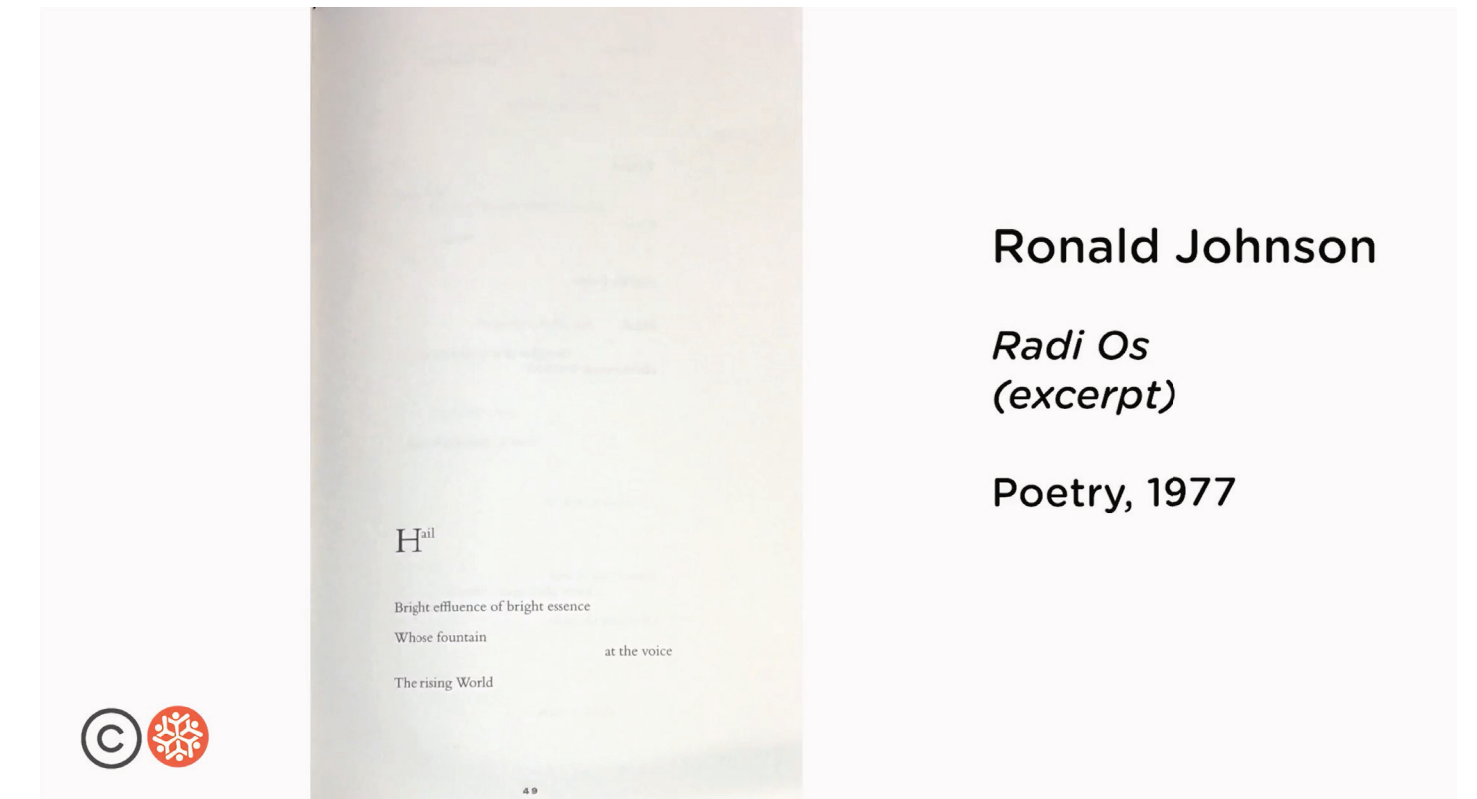
INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



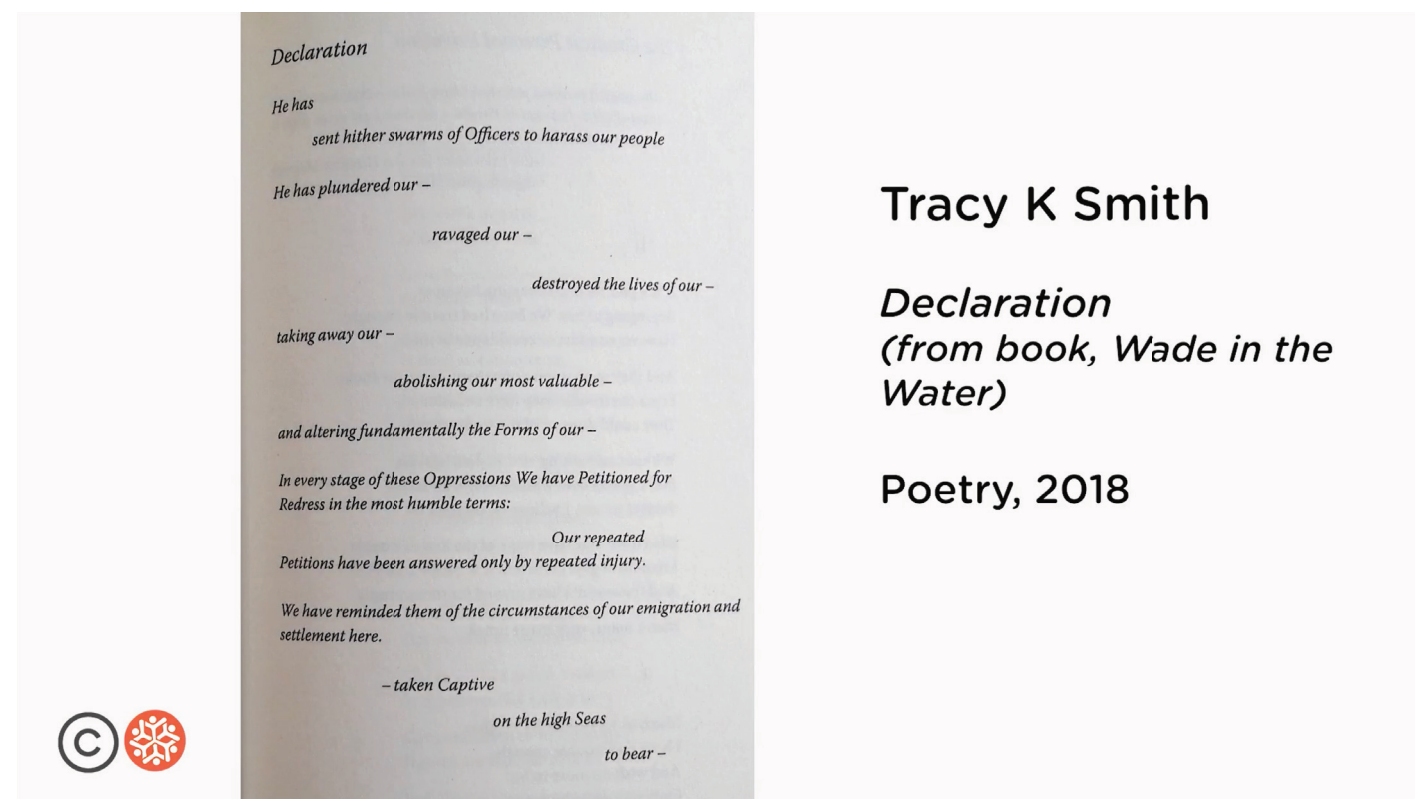
Here is a piece of text the poet **Jordan Abel**, a member of the Nisga'a people of British Columbia, erased. He takes pages from the book *Totem Poles* by anthropologist Marius Barbeau, and erases portions of it.



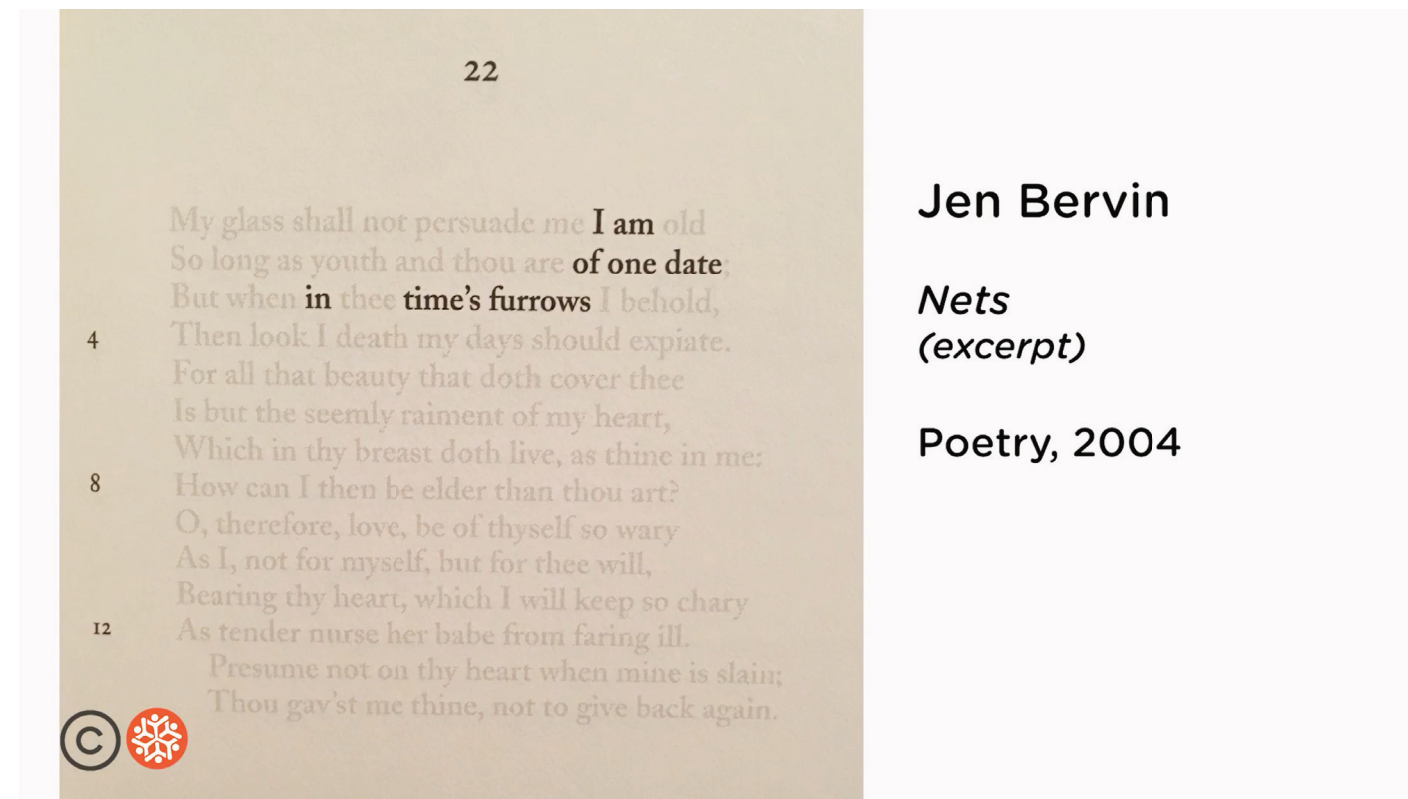
Barbeau's purchasing of totem poles and other sacred items from the Indigenous people that he studies contributed to the loss of those cultures. Abel's own erasing becomes a metaphor for Barbeau's erasing objects from the culture.



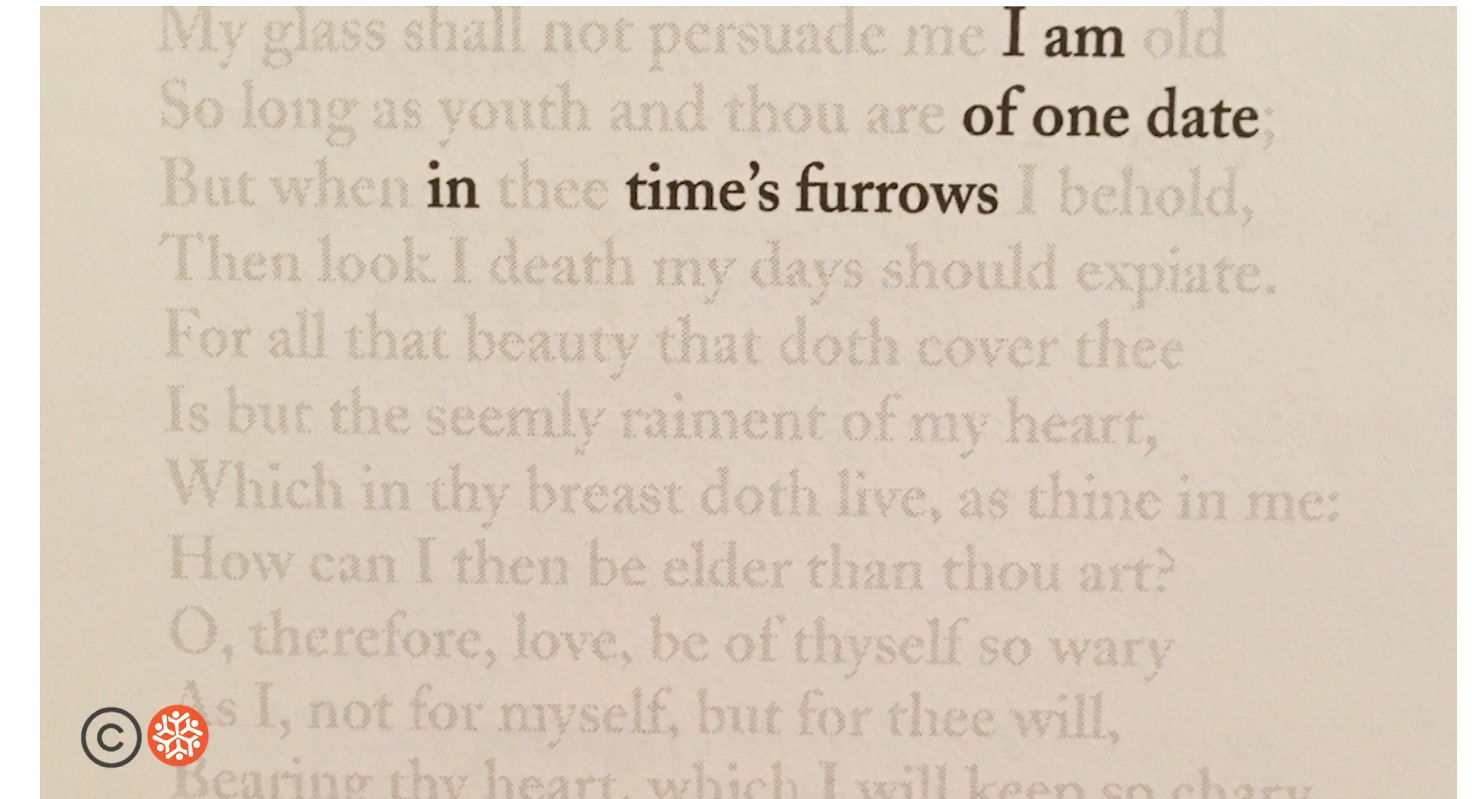
Ronald Johnson went through the first four sections of John Milton's epic poem "Paradise Lost," erasing all mentions of God and Satan—leaving behind a poem with a completely different set of emphases.



Tracy K Smith erases parts of the Declaration of Independence in her poem "Declaration"—uncovering a poem about the oppression of Black people in this country, finding it within the founding document of this country.



Some poets will play around with the **opacity**, or level of **transparency**, of the source text.



In a poem called "Nets," her erasure of Shakespeare's sonnets, **Jen Bervin** chooses to let the reader see a shadow of Shakespeare's texts, keeping it connected to the history.

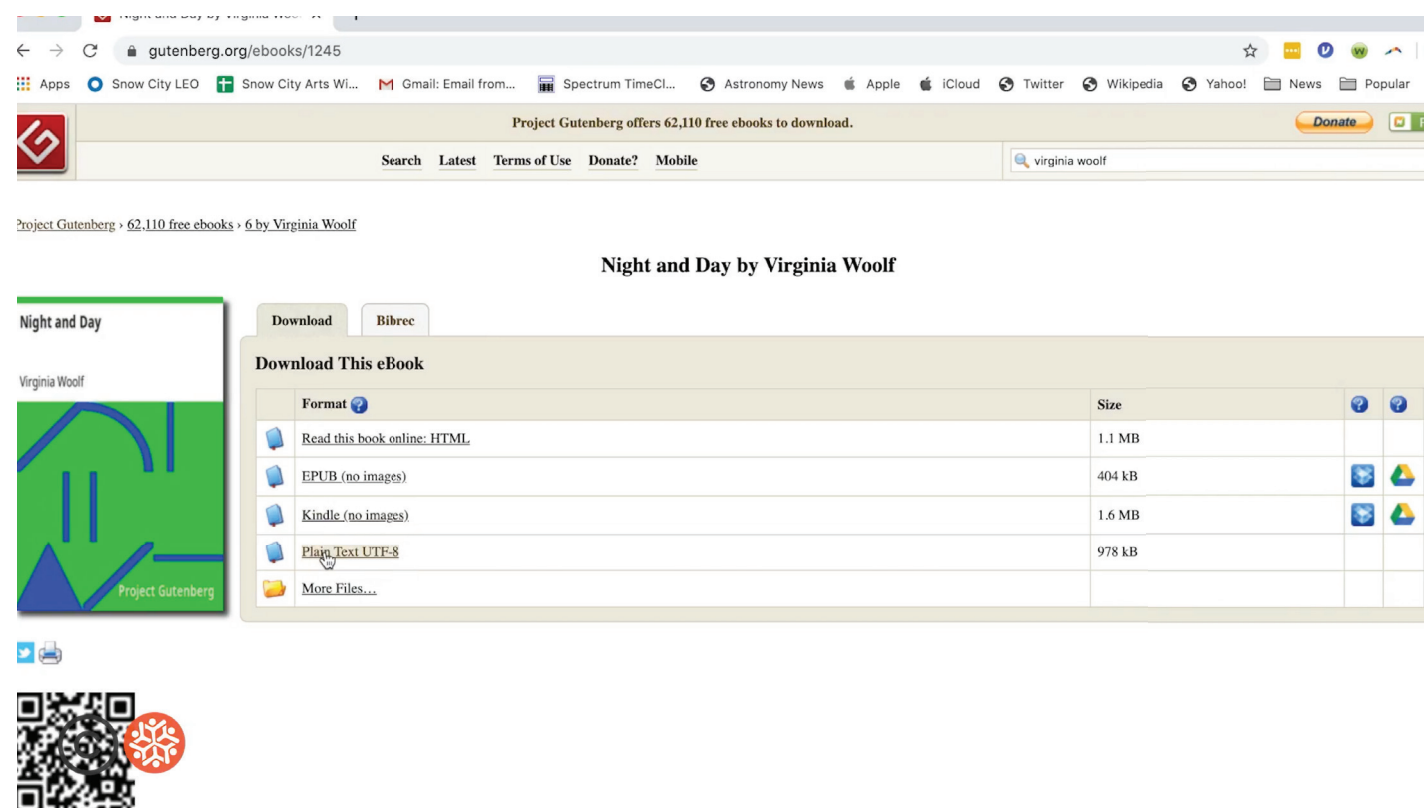


INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:


Part 1:
Digital text processing techniques



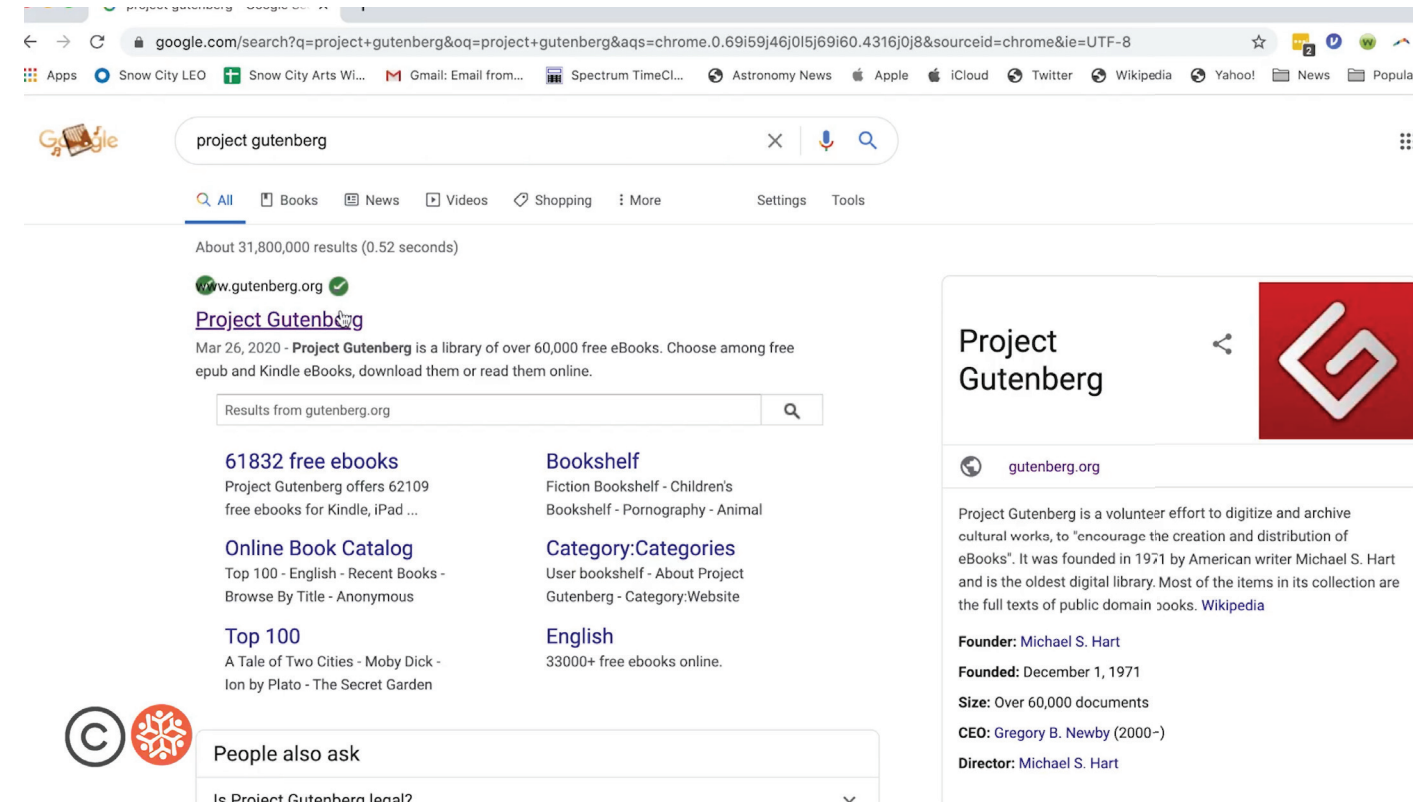
You can experiment with many different word processing programs to create your own digital erasure poetry. Today, I will show you how to use **Microsoft Word** to utilize these techniques.



| Format | Size |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Read this book online: HTML | 1.1 MB |
| EPUB (no images) | 404 kB |
| Kindle (no images) | 1.6 MB |
| Plain Text UTF-8 | 979 kB |
| More Files... | |



Then, you'll want to click on "**Plain Text.**"



Project Gutenberg

Project Gutenberg offers 62109 free ebooks for Kindle, iPad ...

61832 free ebooks

Project Gutenberg offers 62109 free ebooks for Kindle, iPad ...

Online Book Catalog

Top 100 - English - Recent Books - Browse by Title - Anonymous

Top 100

A Tale of Two Cities - Moby Dick - Ion by Plato - The Secret Garden

Bookshelf

Fiction Bookshelf - Children's Bookshelf - Pornography - Animal

Category:Categories


User bookshelf - About Project Gutenberg - Category:Website

English

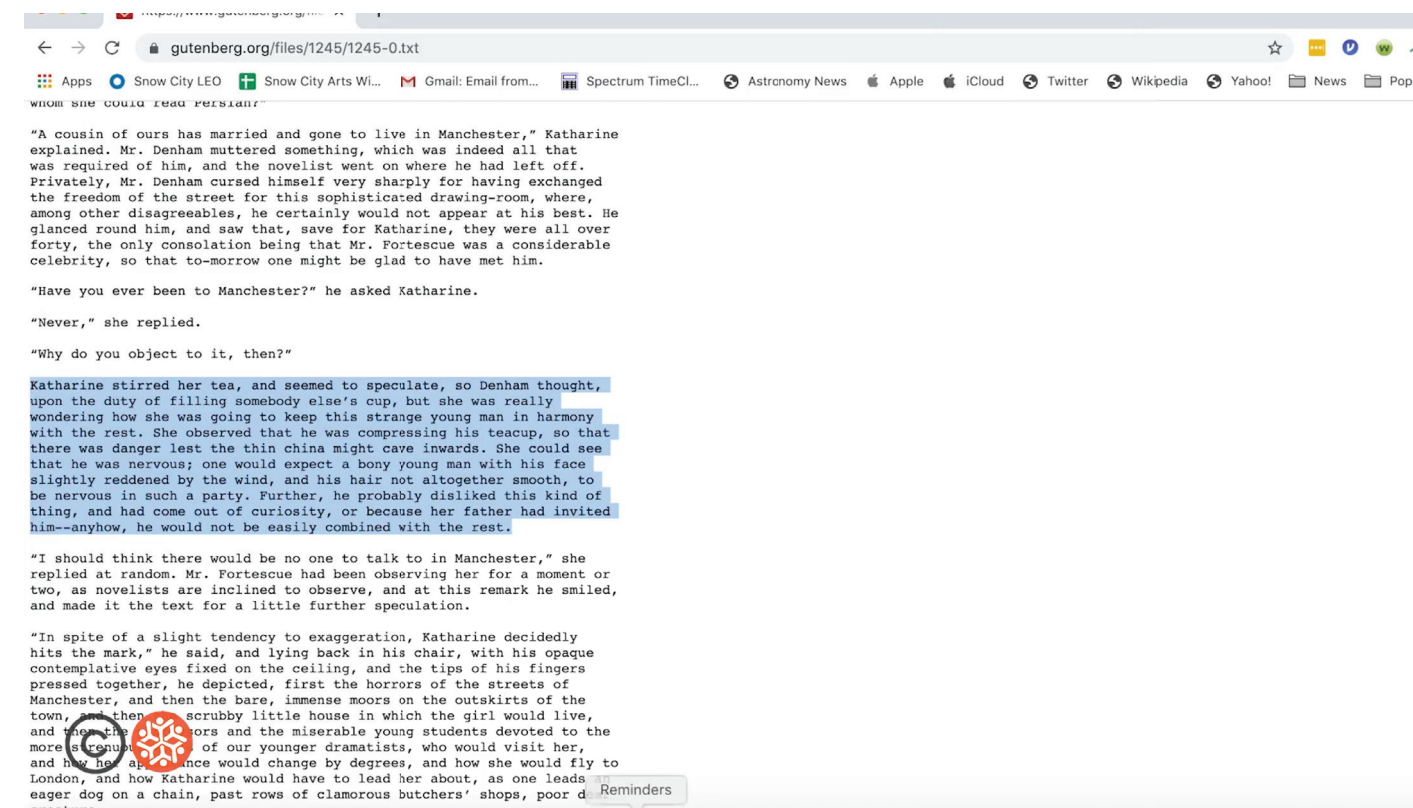
33000+ free ebooks online.

People also ask

Is Driact Gutenberg lona?



First, I'm going to search for **Project Gutenberg**, which has tens of thousands of free ebooks available to anybody. So click on "Project Gutenberg."



"A cousin of ours has married and gone to live in Manchester," Katharine explained. Mr. Denham muttered something, which was indeed all that was required of him, and the novelist went on where he had left off. Privately, Mr. Denham cursed himself very sharply for having exchanged the freedom of the street for this sophisticated drawing-room, where, among other disagreeables, he certainly would not appear at his best. He glanced round him, and saw that, save for Katharine, they were all over forty, the only consolation being that Mr. Fortescue was a considerable celebrity, so that to-morrow one might be glad to have met him.

"Have you ever been to Manchester?" he asked Katharine.


"Never," she replied.

"Why do you object to it, then?"

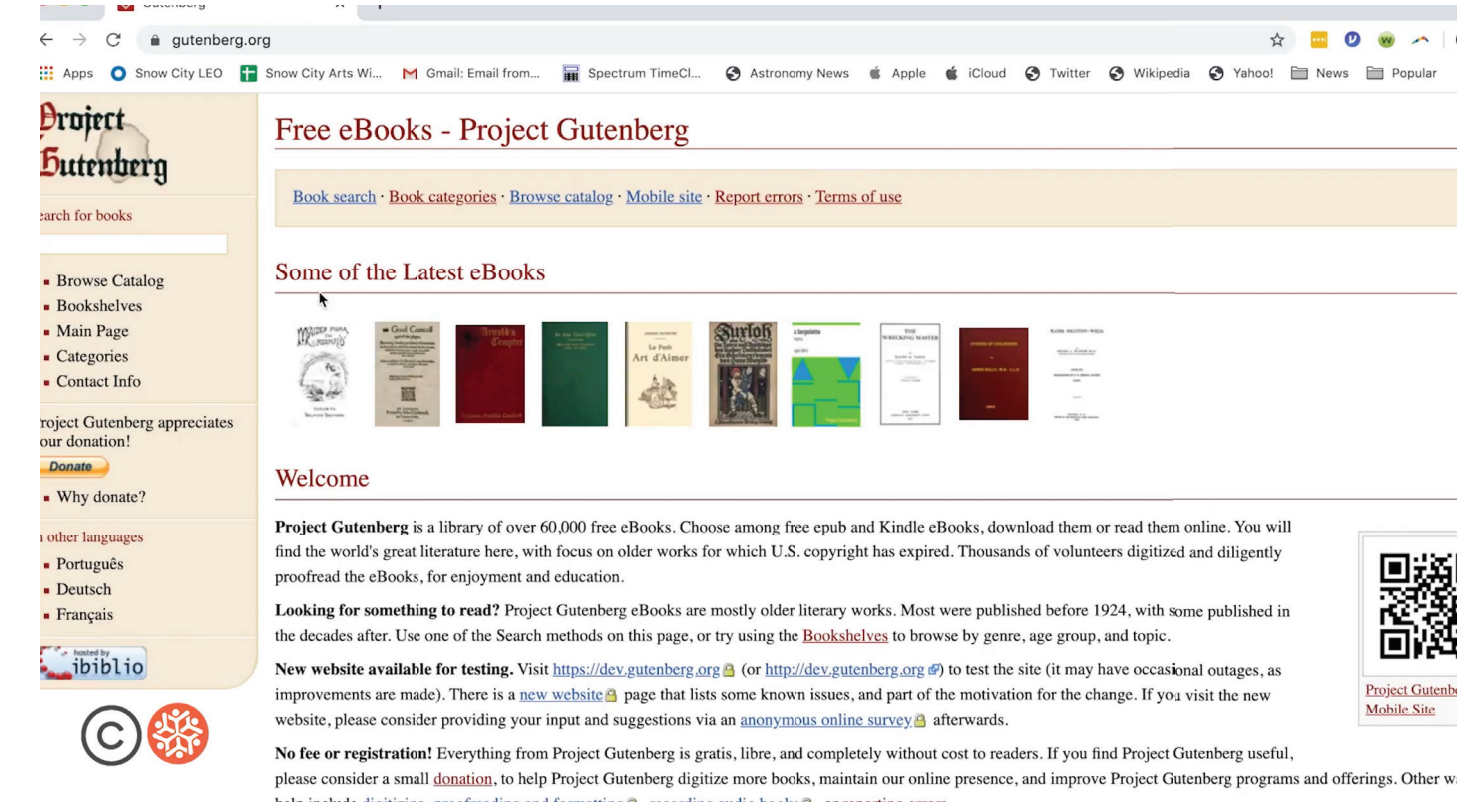
Katharine stirred her tea, and seemed to speculate, so Denham thought, upon the duty of filling somebody else's cup, but she was really wondering how she was going to keep this strange young man in harmony with the rest. She observed that he was compressing his teacup, so that there was danger lest the thin china might cave inwards. She could see that he was nervous; one would expect a bony young man with his face slightly reddened by the wind, and his hair not altogether smooth, to be nervous in such a party. Further, he probably disliked this kind of thing, and had come out of curiosity, or because her father had invited him—anyhow, he would not be easily combined with the rest.

"I should think there would be no one to talk to in Manchester," she replied at random. Mr. Fortescue had been observing her for a moment or two, as novelists are inclined to observe, and at this remark he smiled, and made it the text for a little further speculation.

"In spite of a slight tendency to exaggeration, Katharine decidedly hits the mark," he said, and lying back in his chair, with his opaque contemplative eyes fixed on the ceiling, and the tips of his fingers pressed together, he depicted, first the horrors of the streets of Manchester, and then the bare, immense moors on the outskirts of the town, and then the scrubby little house in which the girl would live, and the more of our younger dramatists, who would visit her, and the time would change by degrees, and how she would fly to London, and how Katharine would have to lead her about, an one leads eager dog on a chain, past rows of clamorous butchers' shops, poor d



Scroll past the publication information, and choose a paragraph from the piece of literature.



Free eBooks - Project Gutenberg

Book search · Book categories · Browse catalog · Mobile site · Report errors · Terms of use

Some of the Latest eBooks


Welcome

Project Gutenberg is a library of over 60,000 free eBooks. Choose among free epub and Kindle eBooks, download them or read them online. You will find the world's great literature here, with focus on older works for which U.S. copyright has expired. Thousands of volunteers digitized and diligently proofread the eBooks, for enjoyment and education.

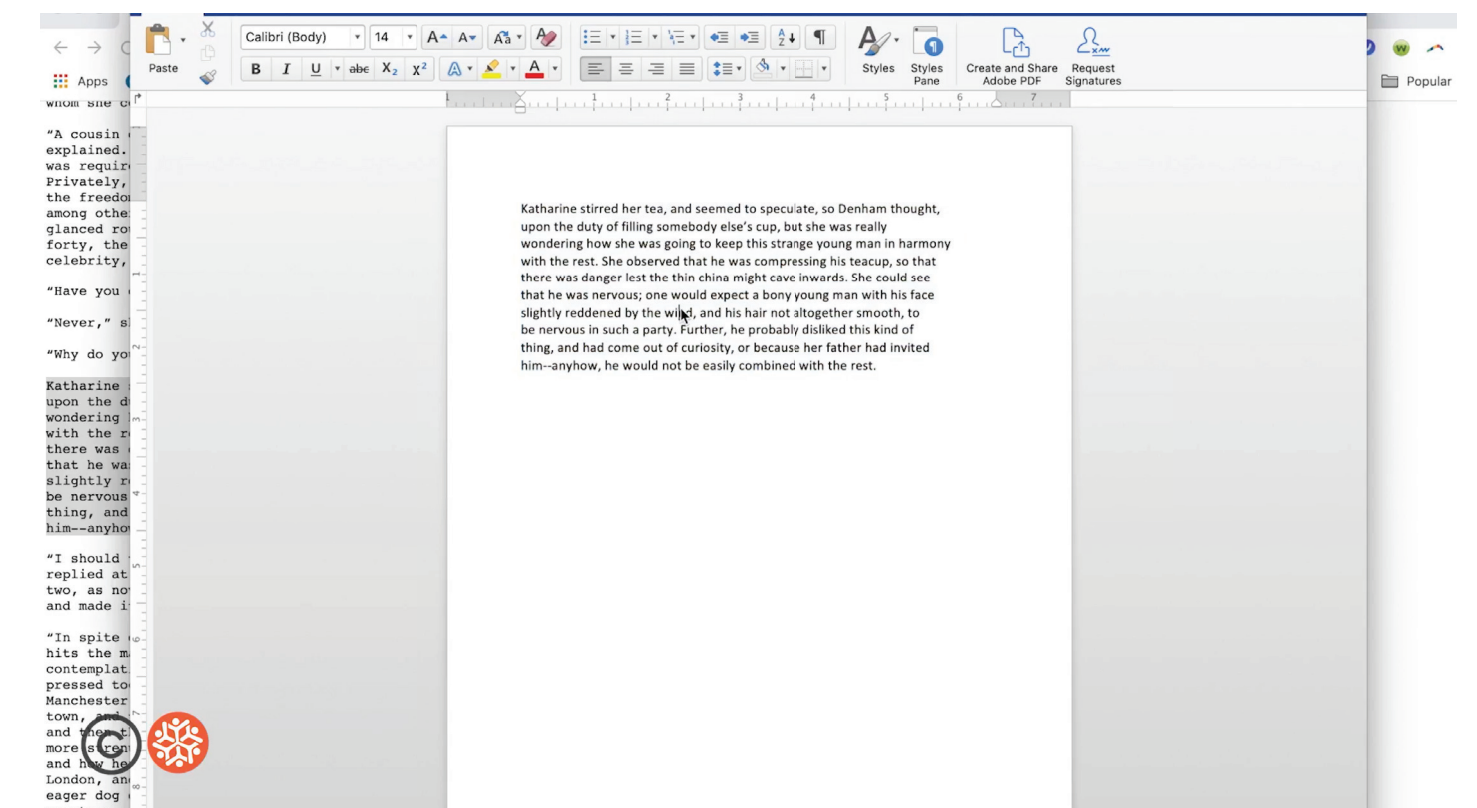
Looking for something to read? Project Gutenberg eBooks are mostly older literary works. Most were published before 1924, with some published in the decades after. Use one of the Search methods on this page, or try using the Bookshelves to browse by genre, age group, and topic.

New website available for testing. Visit <https://dev.gutenberg.org> (or <http://dev.gutenberg.org>) to test the site (it may have occasional outages, as improvements are made). There is a [new website](#) page that lists some known issues, and part of the motivation for the change. If you visit the new website, please consider providing your input and suggestions via an [anonymous online survey](#) afterwards.


No fee or registration! Everything from Project Gutenberg is gratis, libre, and completely without cost to readers. If you find Project Gutenberg useful, please consider a small [donation](#), to help Project Gutenberg digitize more books, maintain our online presence, and improve Project Gutenberg programs and offerings. Other w



I'm going to look up an author named Virginia Woolf, and choose one of her works from what they have available. I'll click on *Night and Day*.



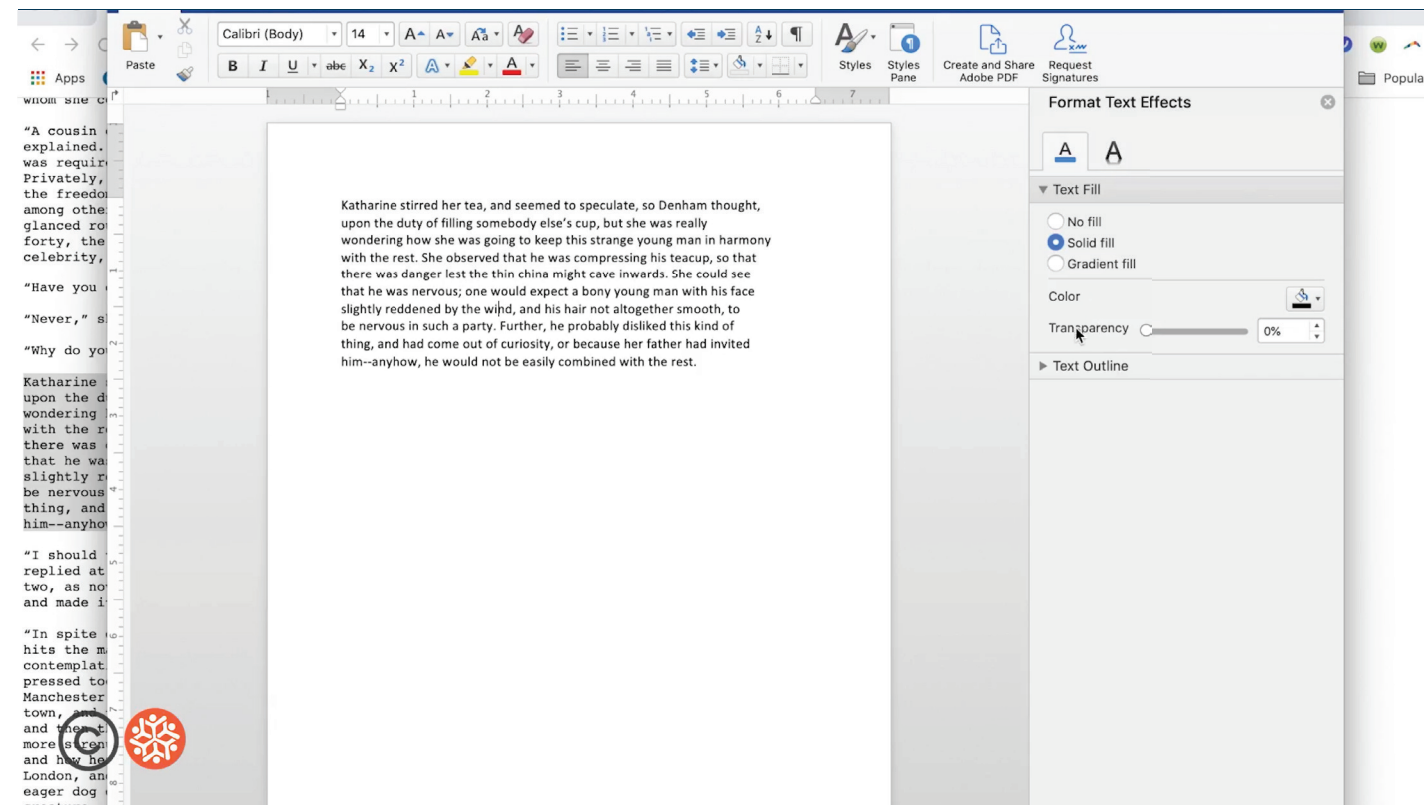
Katharine stirred her tea, and seemed to speculate, so Denham thought, upon the duty of filling somebody else's cup, but she was really wondering how she was going to keep this strange young man in harmony with the rest. She observed that he was compressing his teacup, so that there was danger lest the thin china might cave inwards. She could see that he was nervous; one would expect a bony young man with his face slightly reddened by the wind, and his hair not altogether smooth, to be nervous in such a party. Further, he probably disliked this kind of thing, and had come out of curiosity, or because her father had invited him—anyhow, he would not be easily combined with the rest.



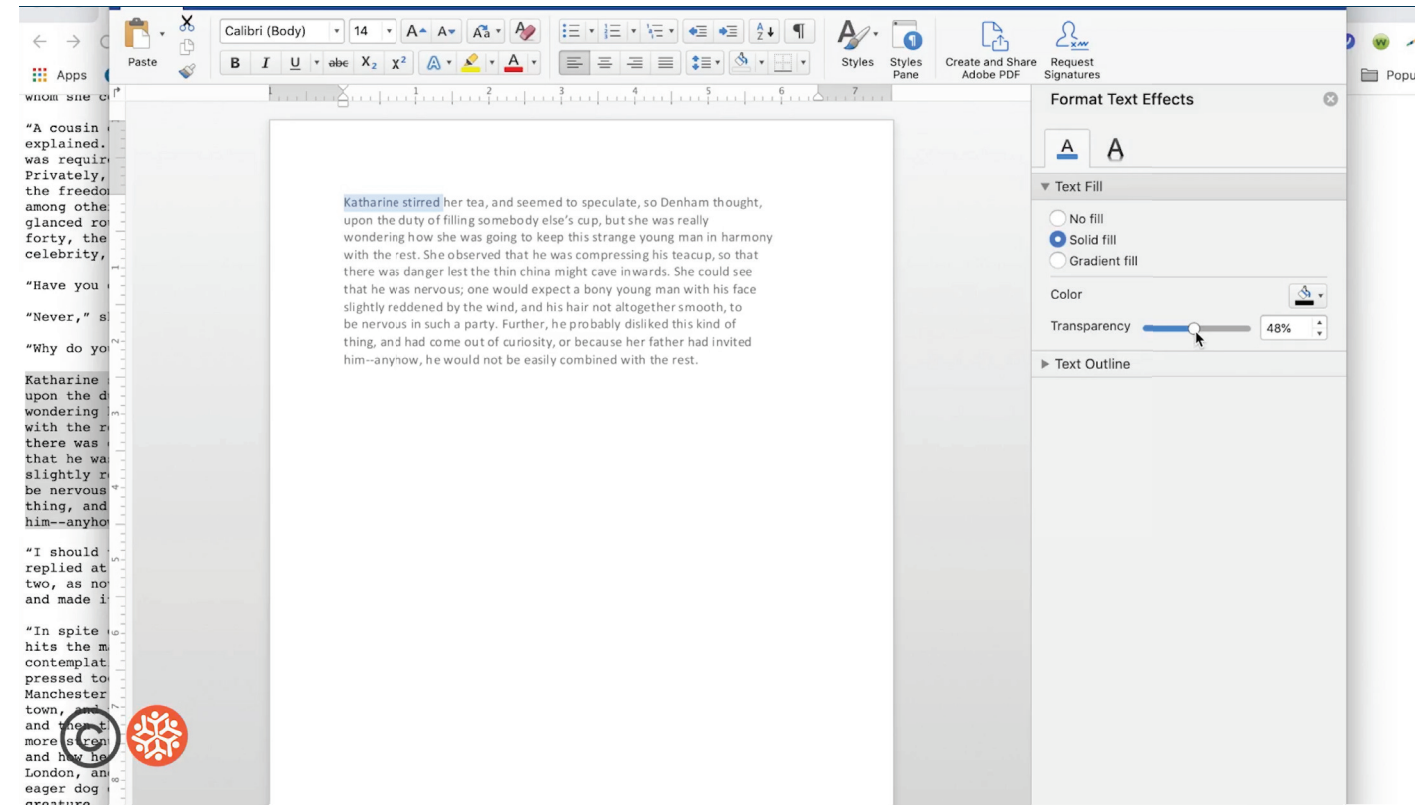
Select that portion of text, and copy and paste it into Microsoft Word. Choose "**Keep Text Only.**" I also chose to bump up my text size a little bit.



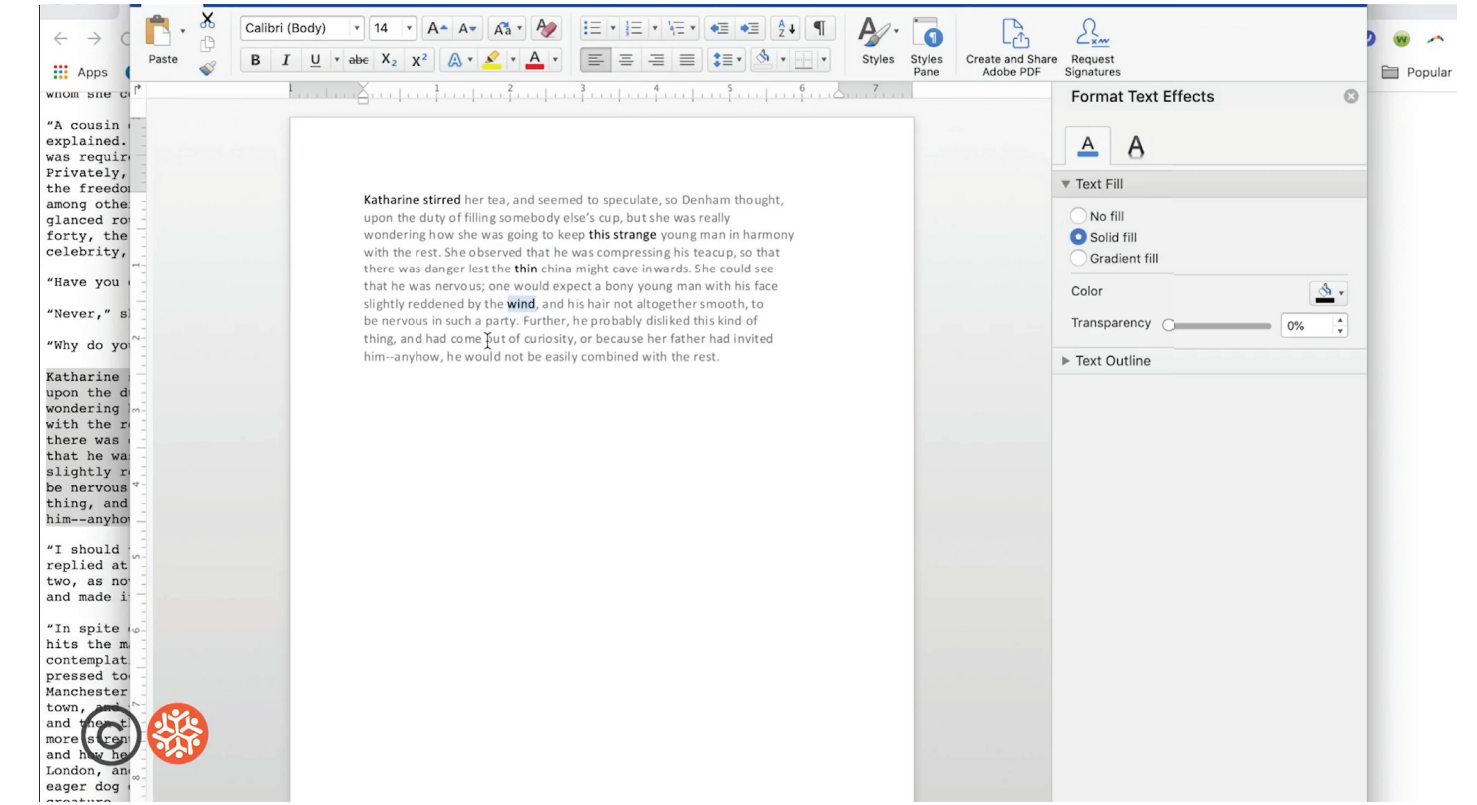
INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



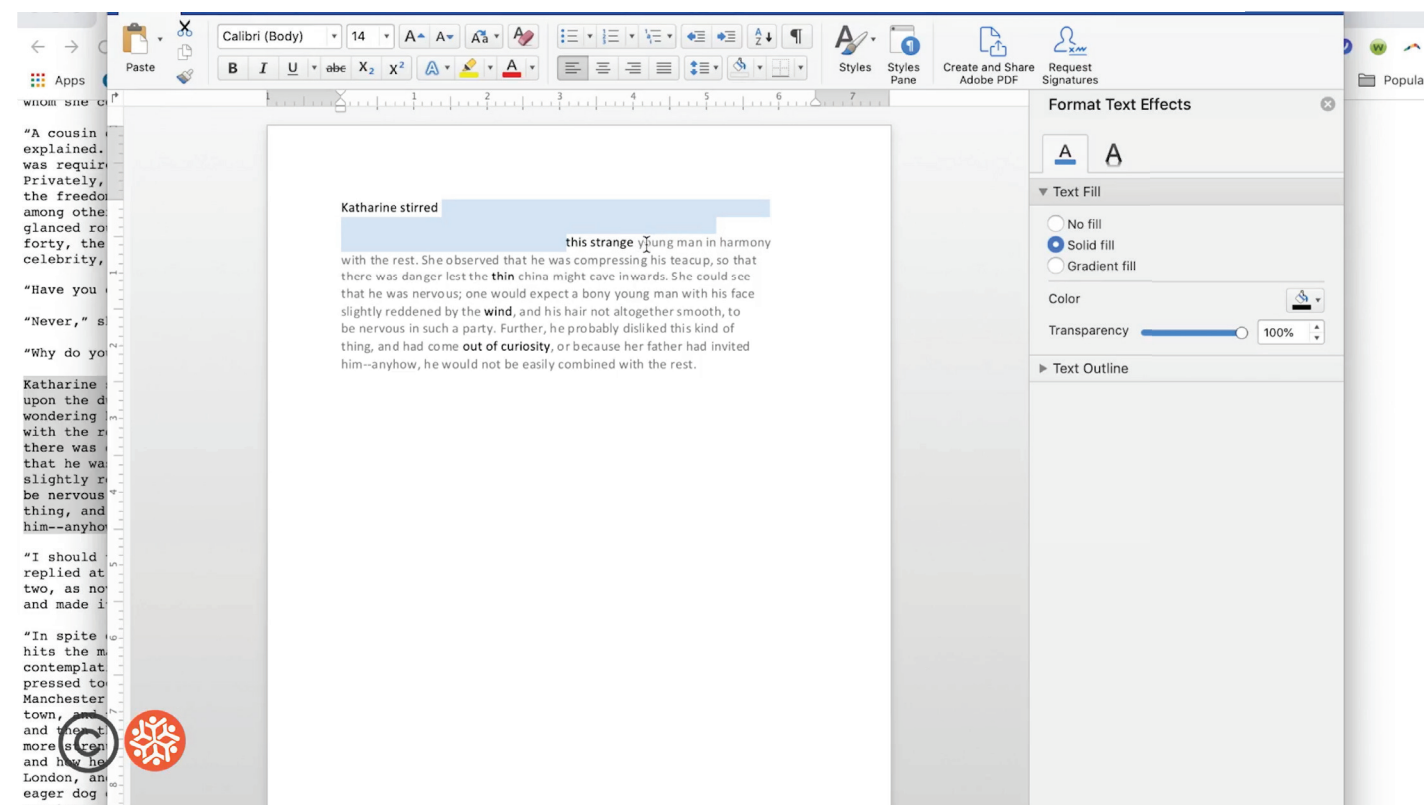
Next, go to **Format > Text effects**, and click on text fill. This will give you a slider to adjust the transparency, or opacity, of your text.



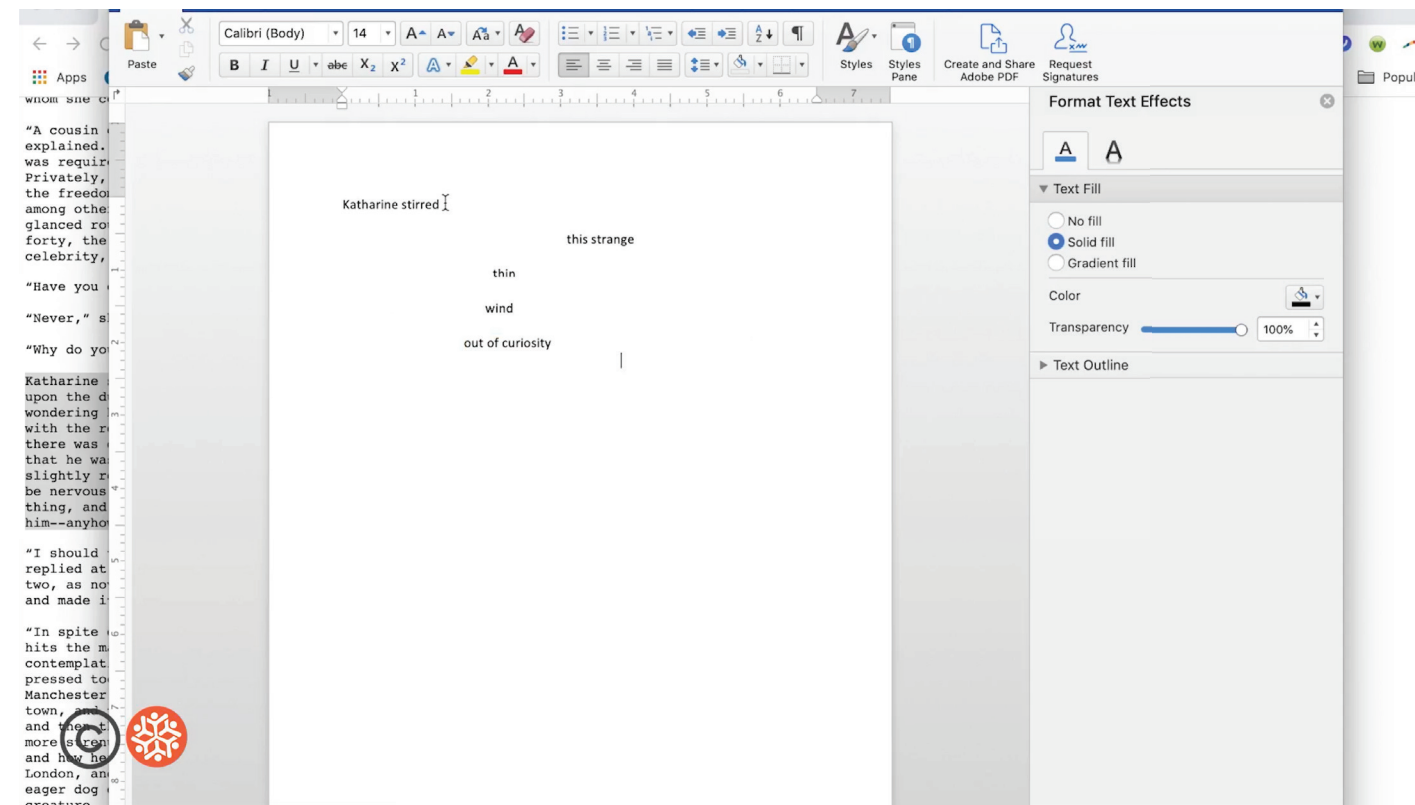
100% on the slider will fade your text completely out. For now, put it at 50% to make your erasure.



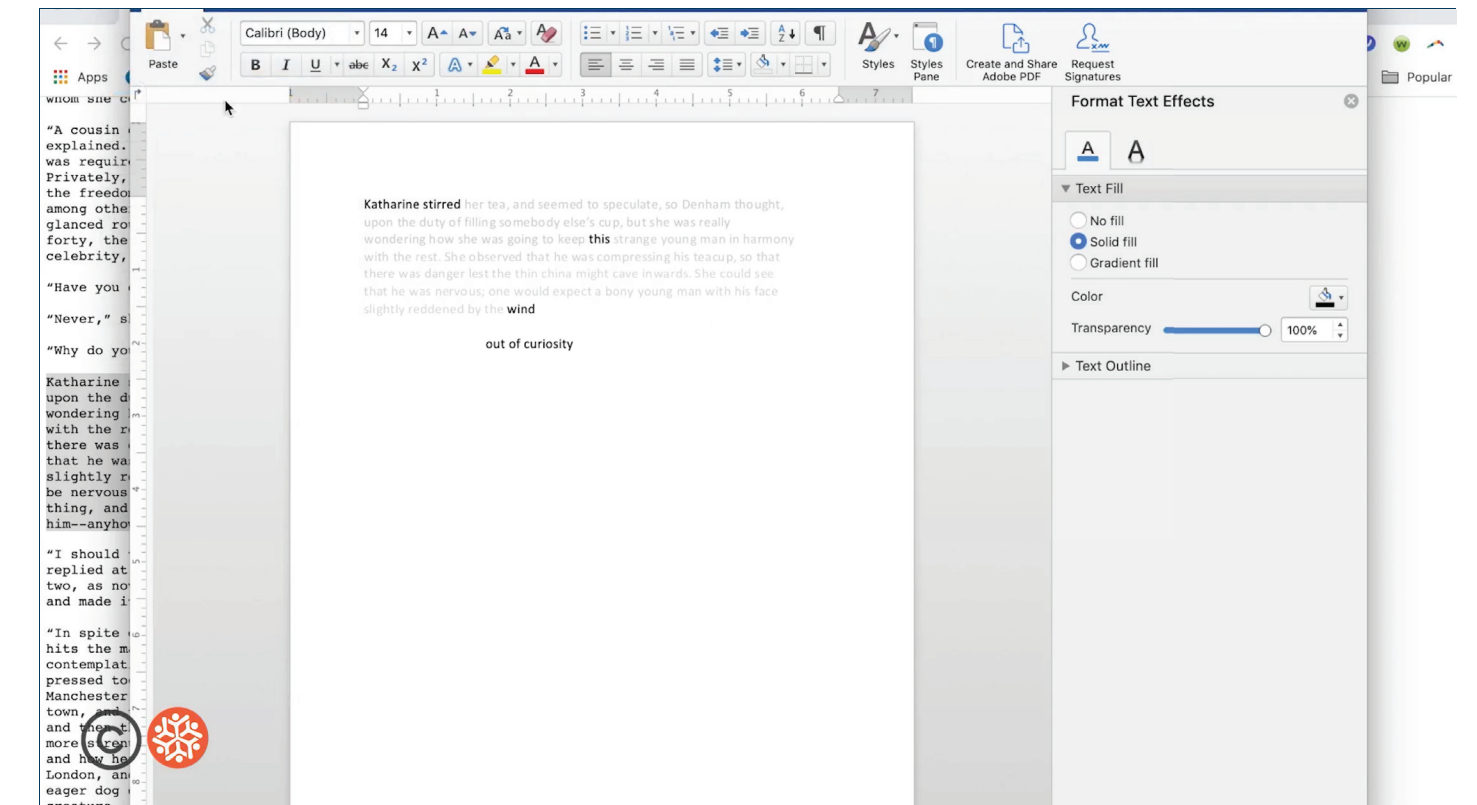
Select the words and phrases you want to be completely visible. Set the slider for these parts at 0%. This will make them completely visible.



Now, select the text that you want to be completely (or somewhat) transparent.



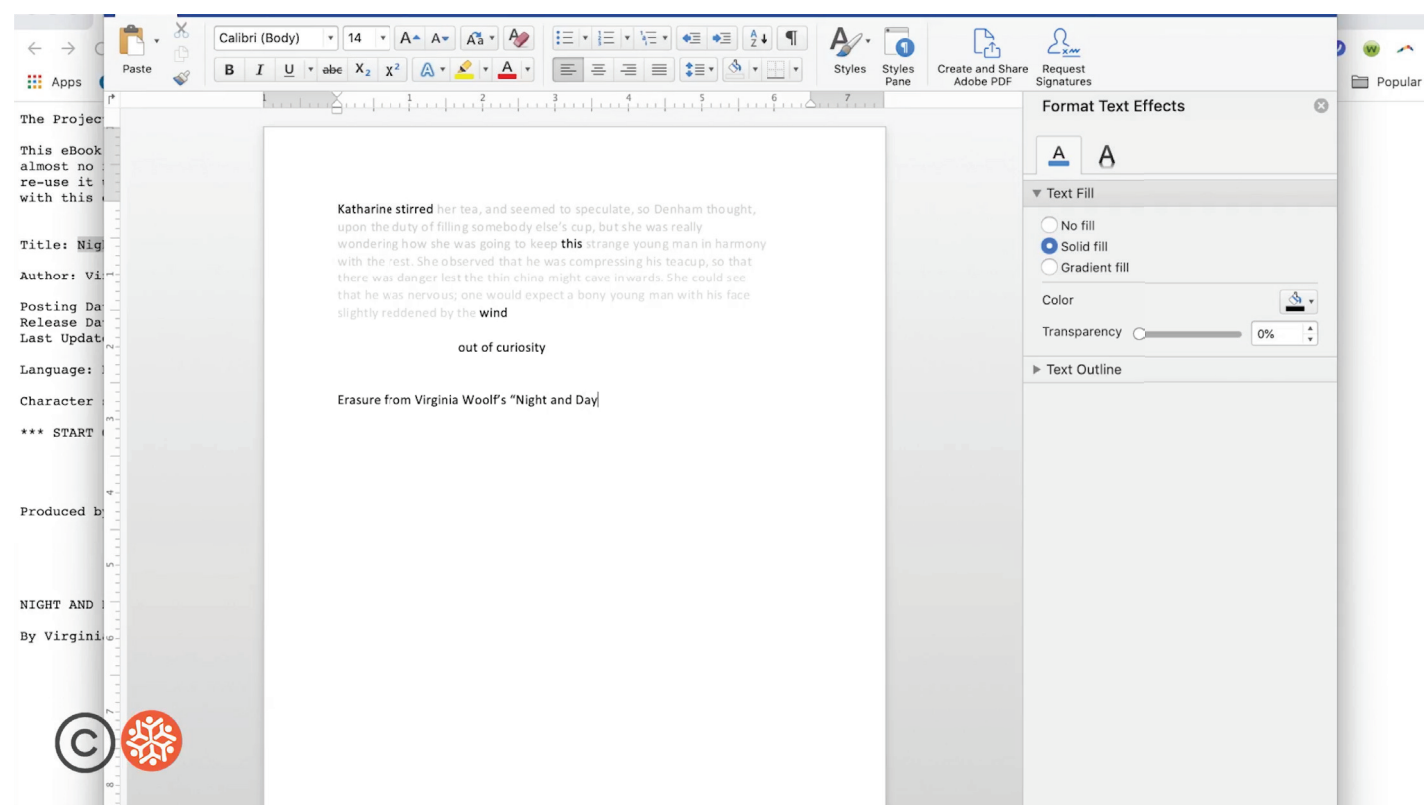
If you set this text at 100%, it will be completely invisible. This is similar to Tracy K Smith's use of the *Declaration of Independence*.



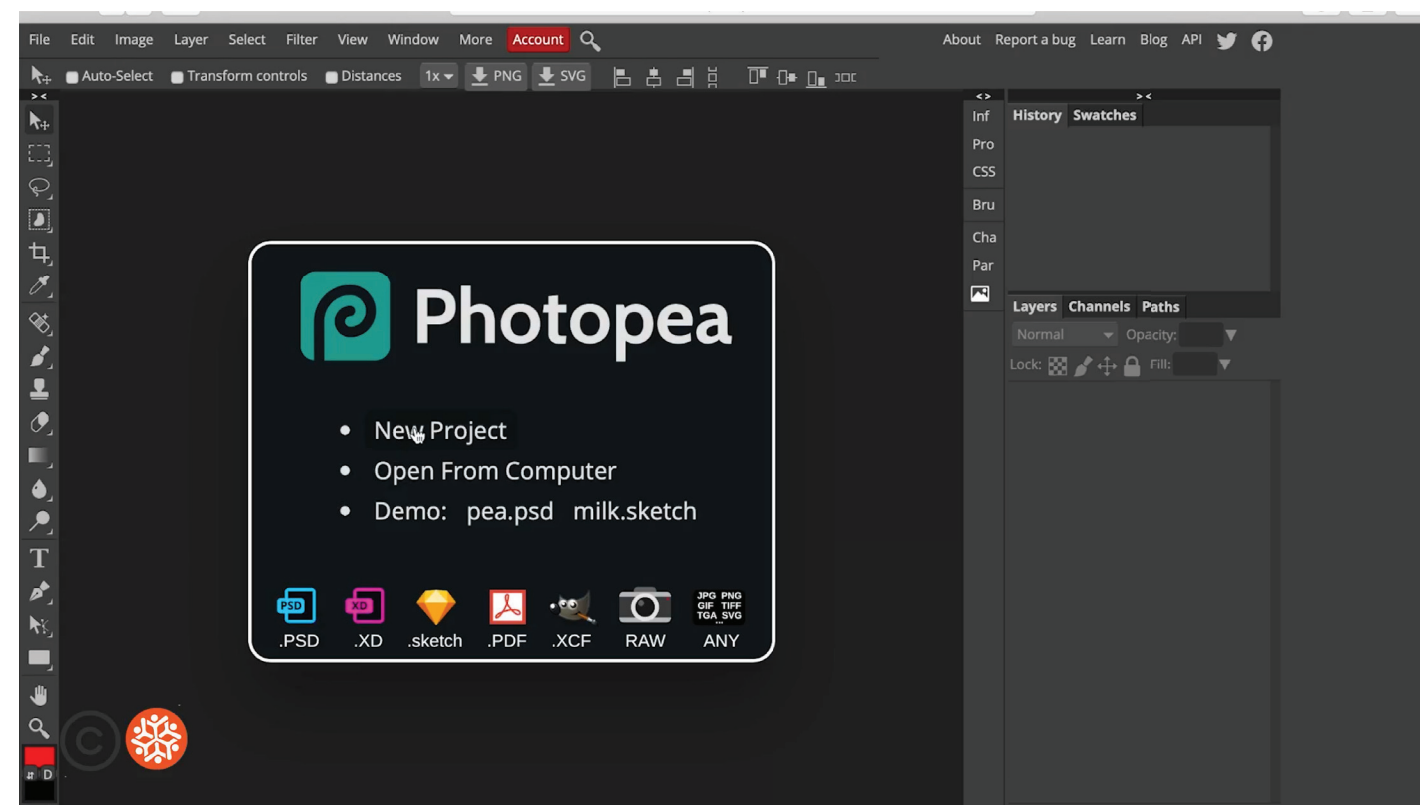
If you set the transparency to about 80%, it will look more like Jen Bervin's versions of Shakespeare's sonnets.



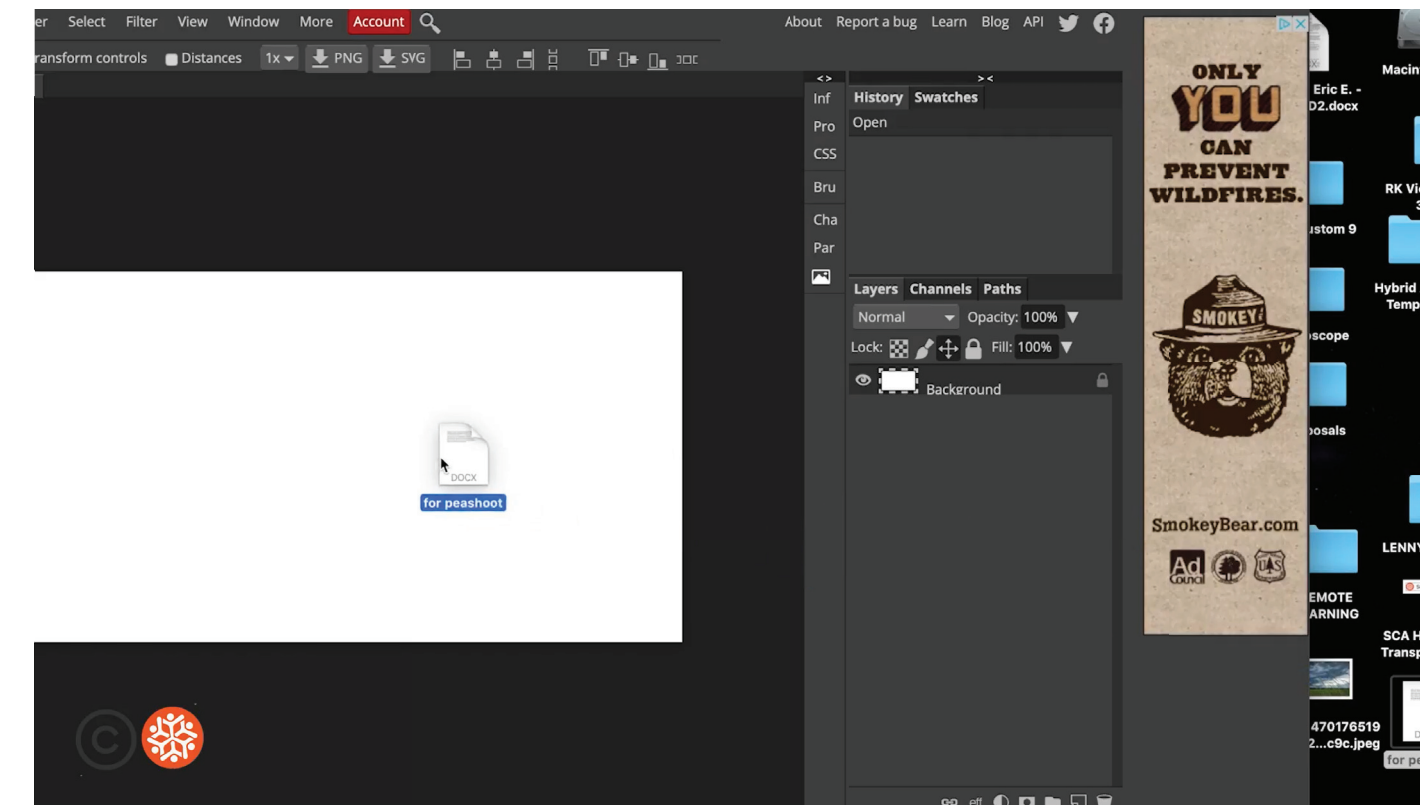
INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



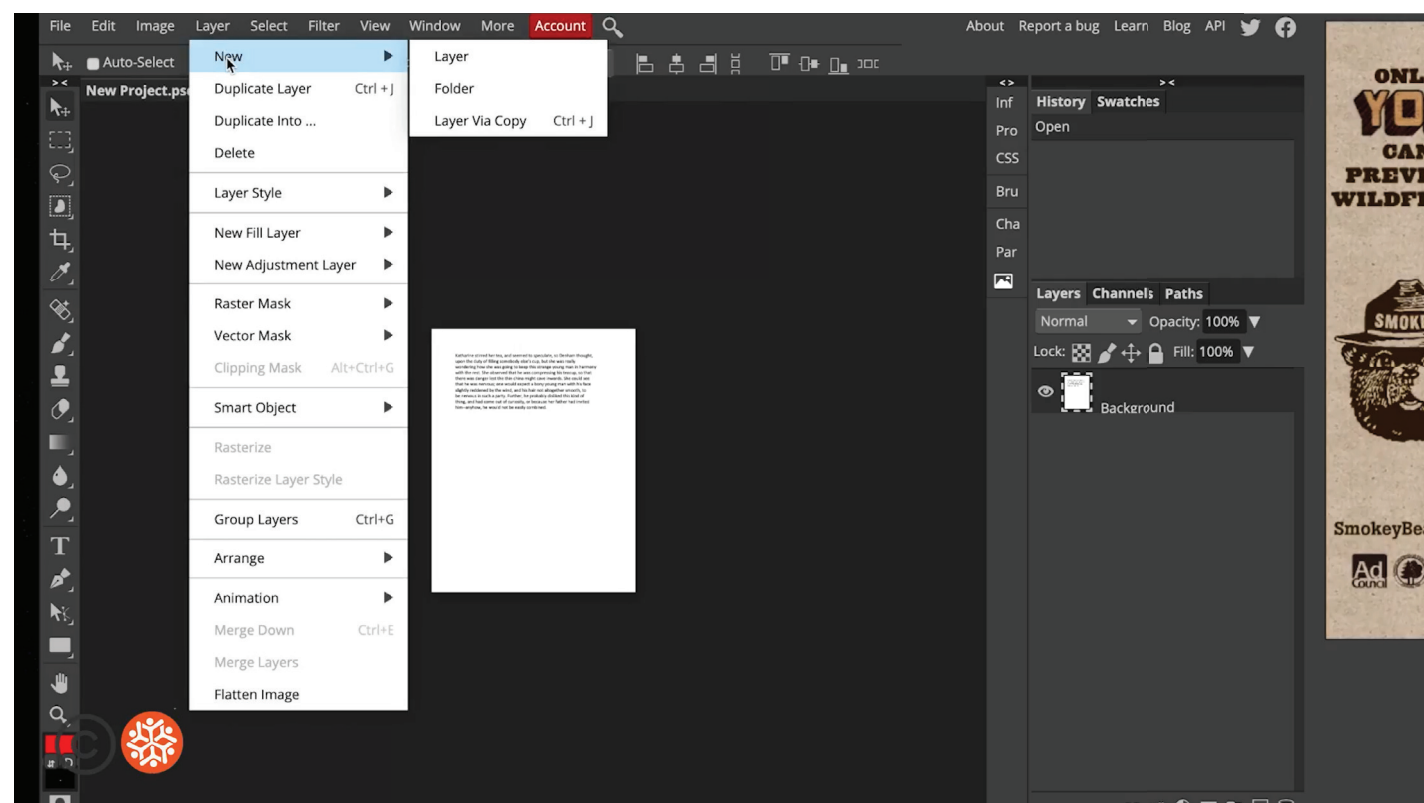
Take your time making your choices, then type where you got your paragraph from. You can then save your document.



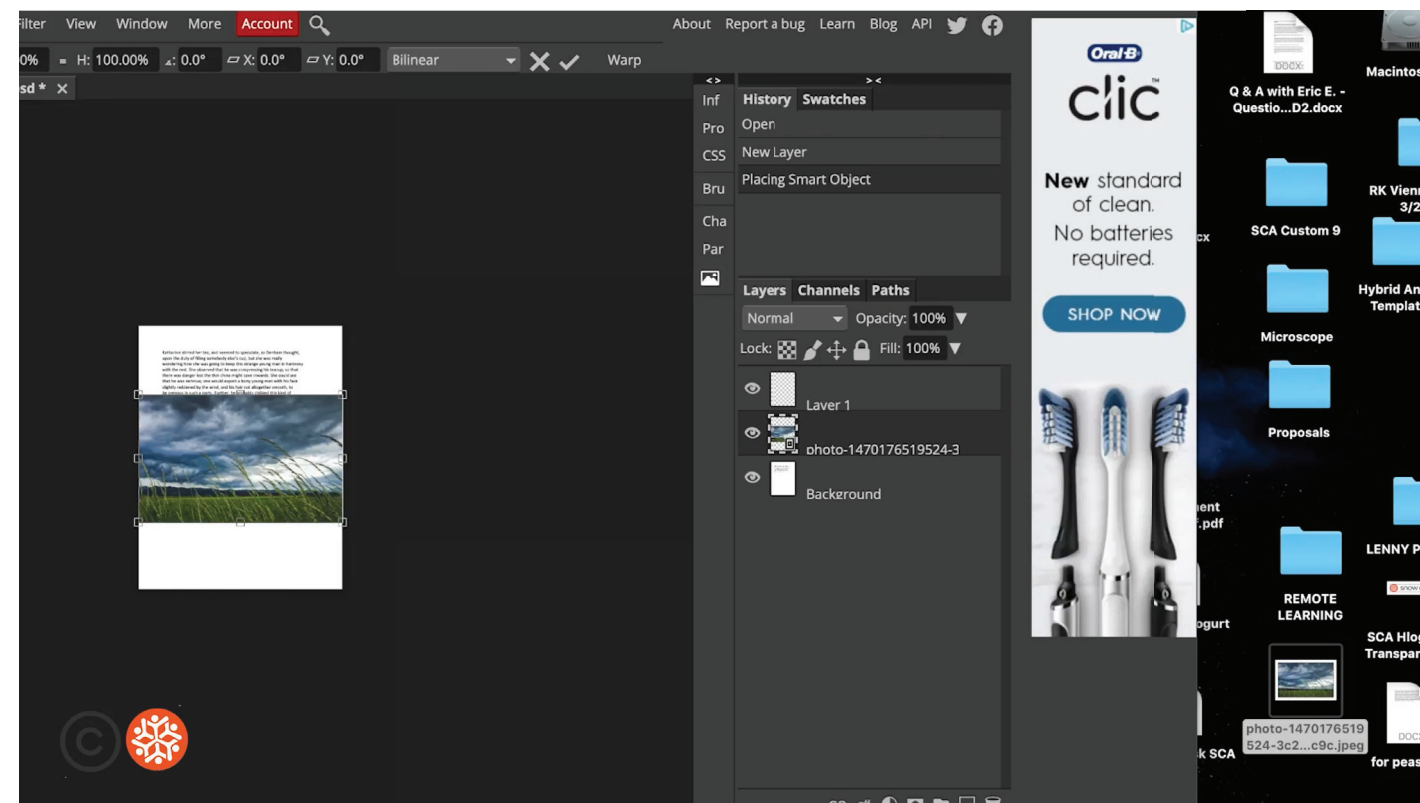
Now, I'll show you how to use another tool to create erasure. We will be using a free, browser-based version of Photoshop, called **Photopea**.



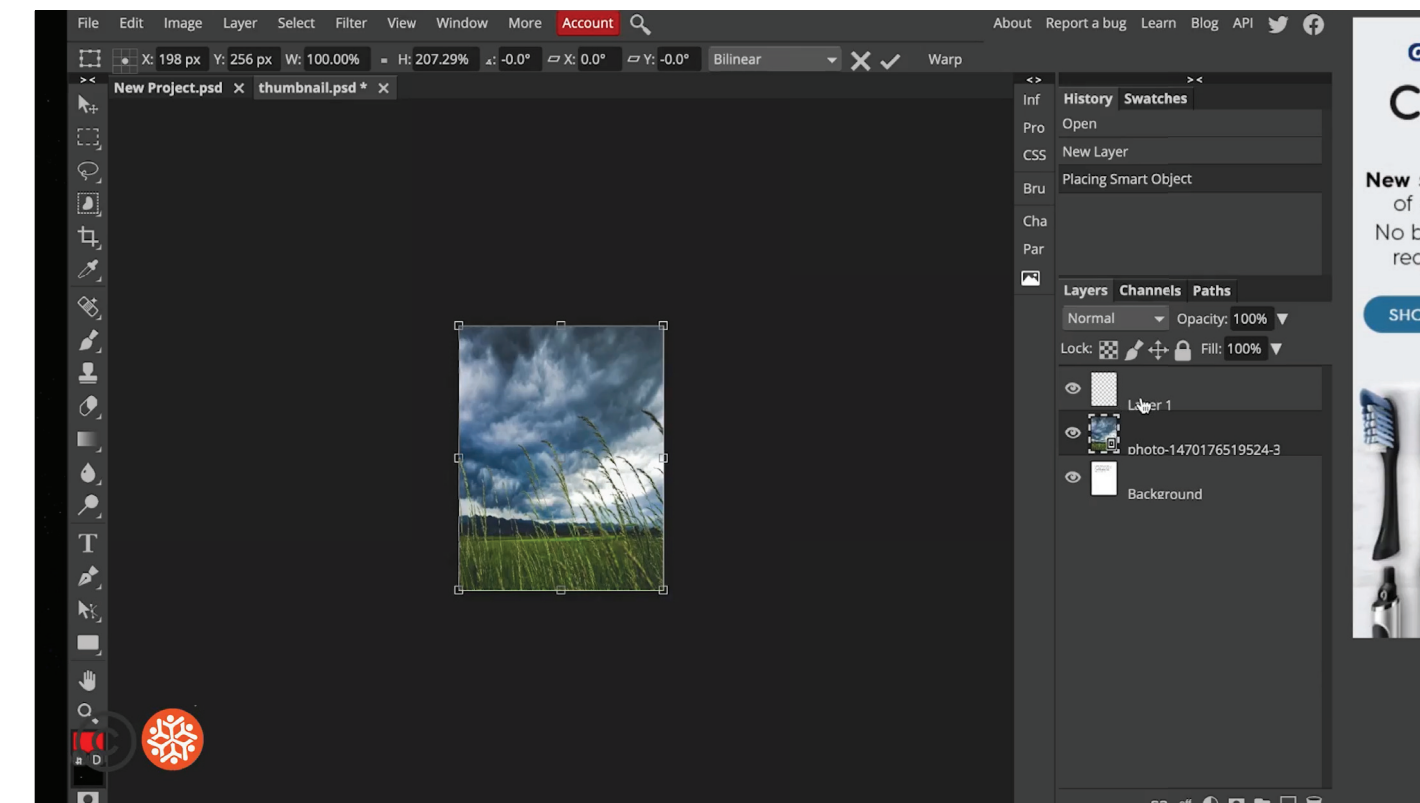
Click new **Project > Create**, then drag the Word document of your text in from your desktop.



Create a new layer.



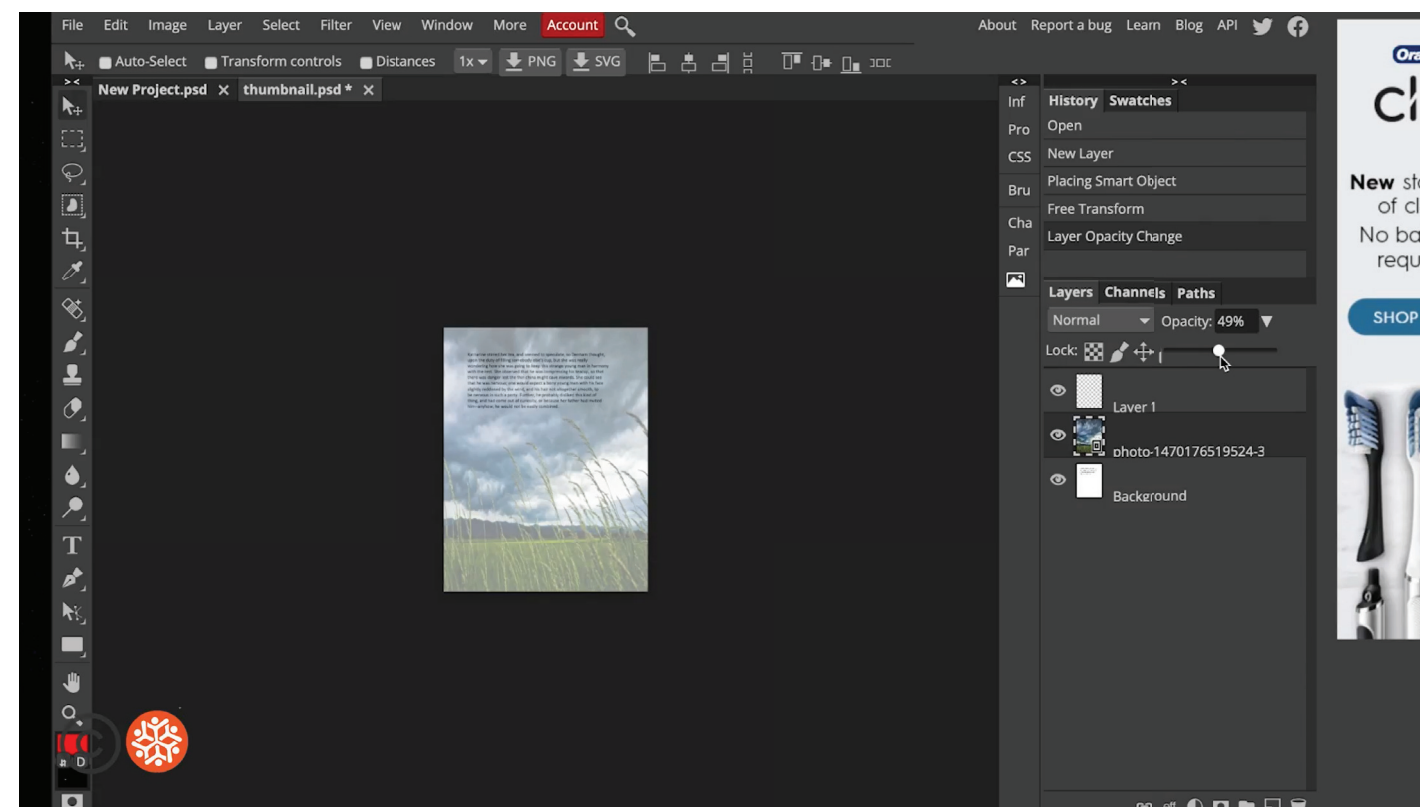
Where you see **Layer 1**, I'm going to drag an image that I got from the Internet over the text. You'll want to make sure that this layer is above the layer with your text on it.



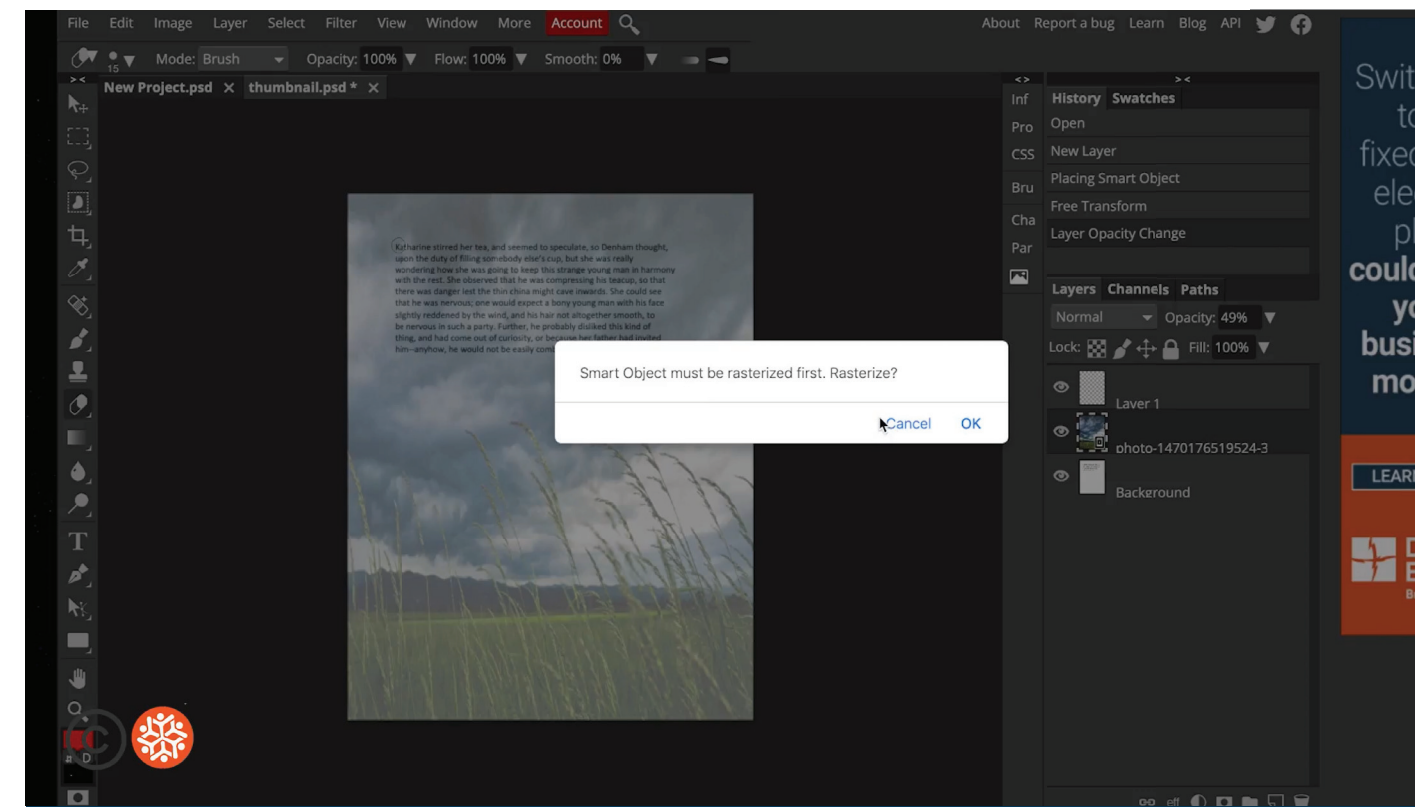
Drag the sides of the image to cover the text.



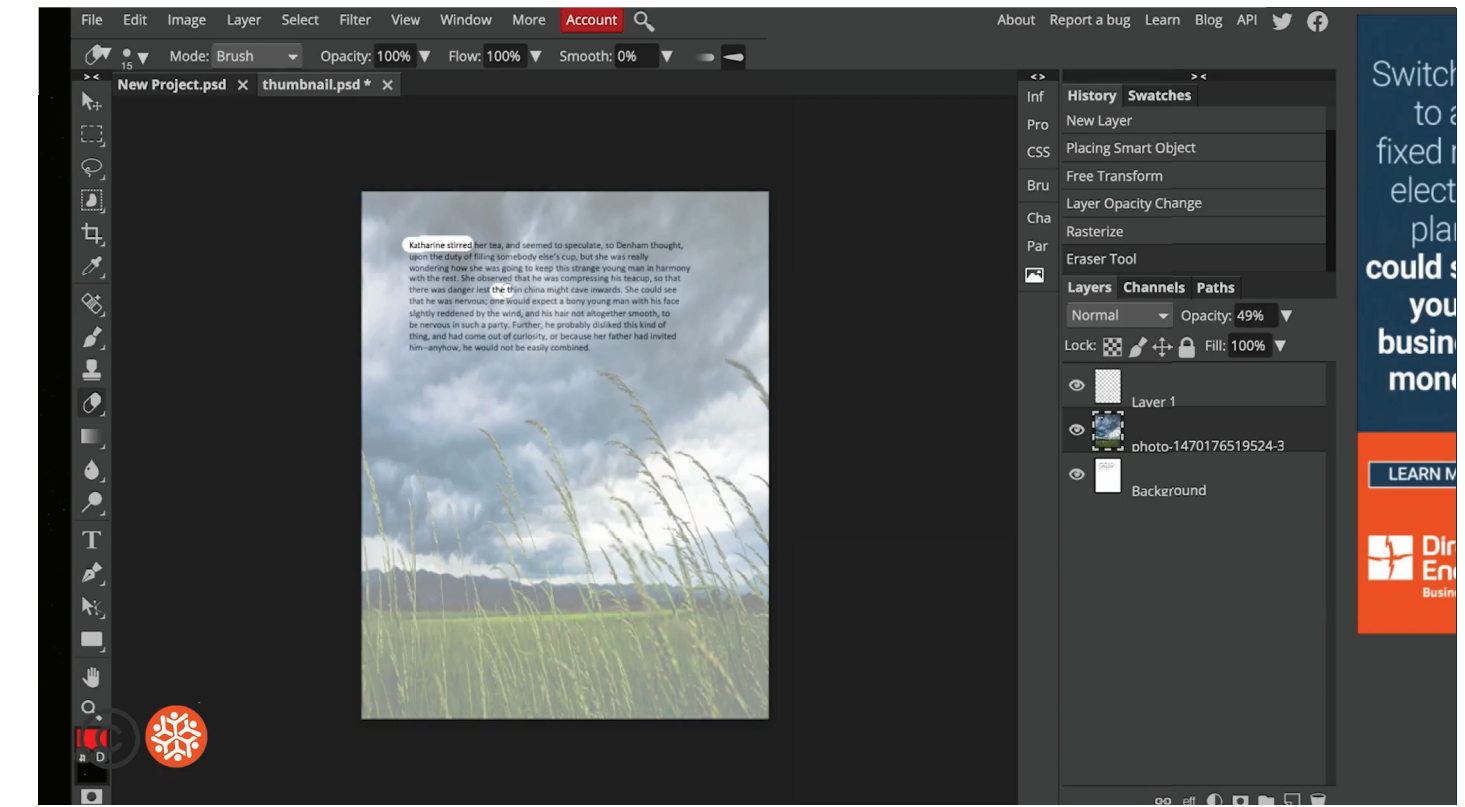
INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



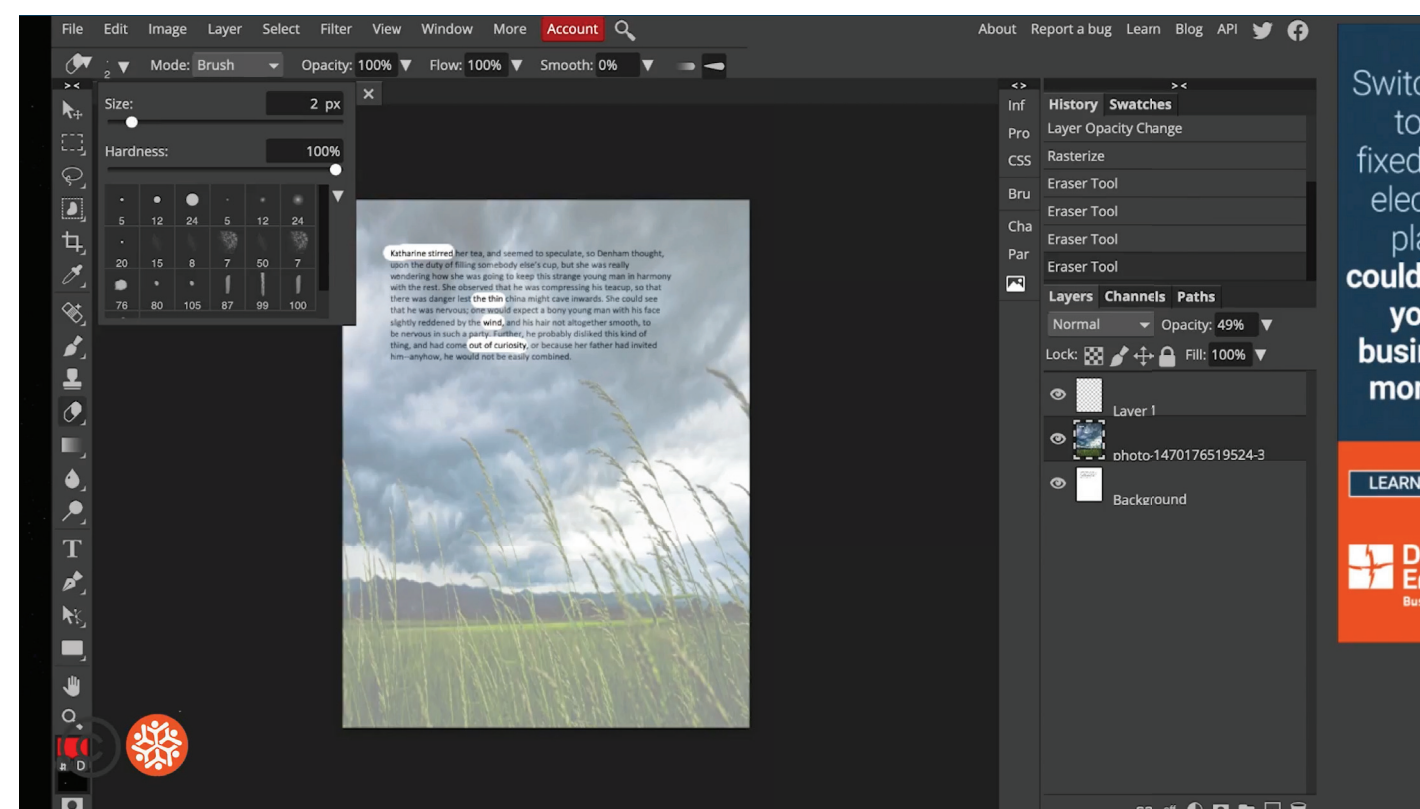
Change the opacity so that you can see the text through the image.



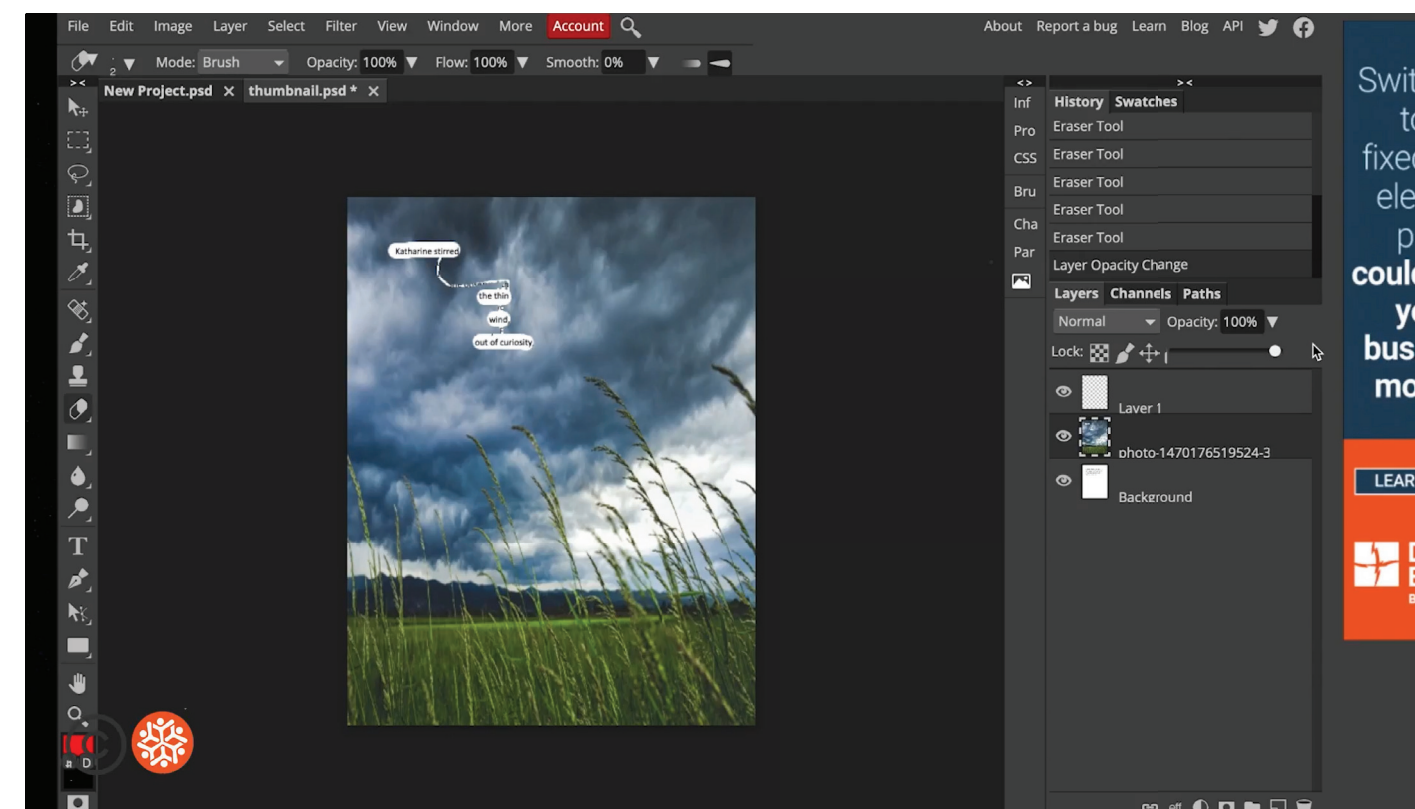
Select the **Erase tool**, and say “yes” to **Rasterize**. That allows us to manipulate both layers.



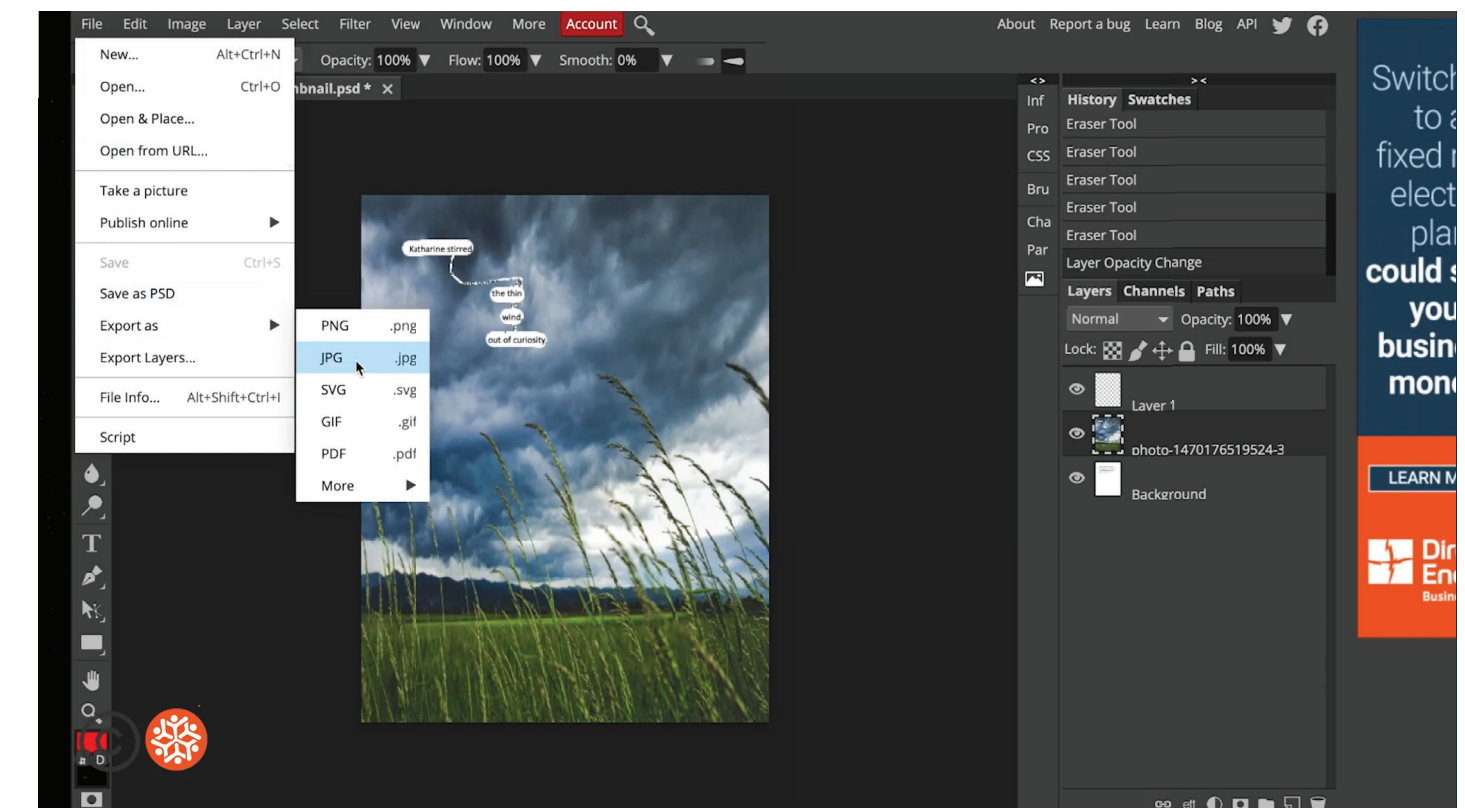
Using the Erase tool, erase the image you placed over the text to reveal the text you want people to be able to read.



Now, I'm going to change the size of the eraser. I'm going to create these kind of river connections between the text boxes. You can draw whatever kind of design you like.



Change the opacity of your image layer. Now all that's left are the words and phrases that you want visible.



Congratulations! You've made your own digital erasure. You can now save your work, and export as a .jpg. Thanks for taking the time to explore erasure poetry with me today!



LEARNING STANDARDS

This workshop is aligned to the following state and national anchor standards. It can be differentiated for learners at every grade level. (For arts performance standard alignments at specific grade levels, feel free to email programs@snowcityarts.org.)

ILLINOIS ARTS LEARNING STANDARDS

Anchor Standards: Creating

- **CR1.** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- **CR2.** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standards: Connecting

- **CN10.** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- **CN11.** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

English Language Arts: College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

Reading

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4.** Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5.** Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7.** Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Language

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3.** Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5.** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Writing

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3.** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.6.** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10.** Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.





If you are interested in **receiving school credit** for the work you have completed in this workshop or if you would like to **have your artwork displayed** in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery, please visit <https://snowcityarts.org/consent-releases/>

Contact us at programs@snowcityarts.org if you have questions, would like to offer feedback, or would like to continue working with us virtually.





Workshop Duration: 25-45 Minutes | ALL LEVELS



snow city arts

1653 W Congress Pkwy

Chicago, IL 60612

Phone: (312) 942-6991

Fax: (312) 942-6859

snowcityarts.org

Snow City Arts inspires and educates children and youth in hospitals through the arts.

Contact us if you have questions,
or would like to offer feedback at
programs@snowcityarts.org

