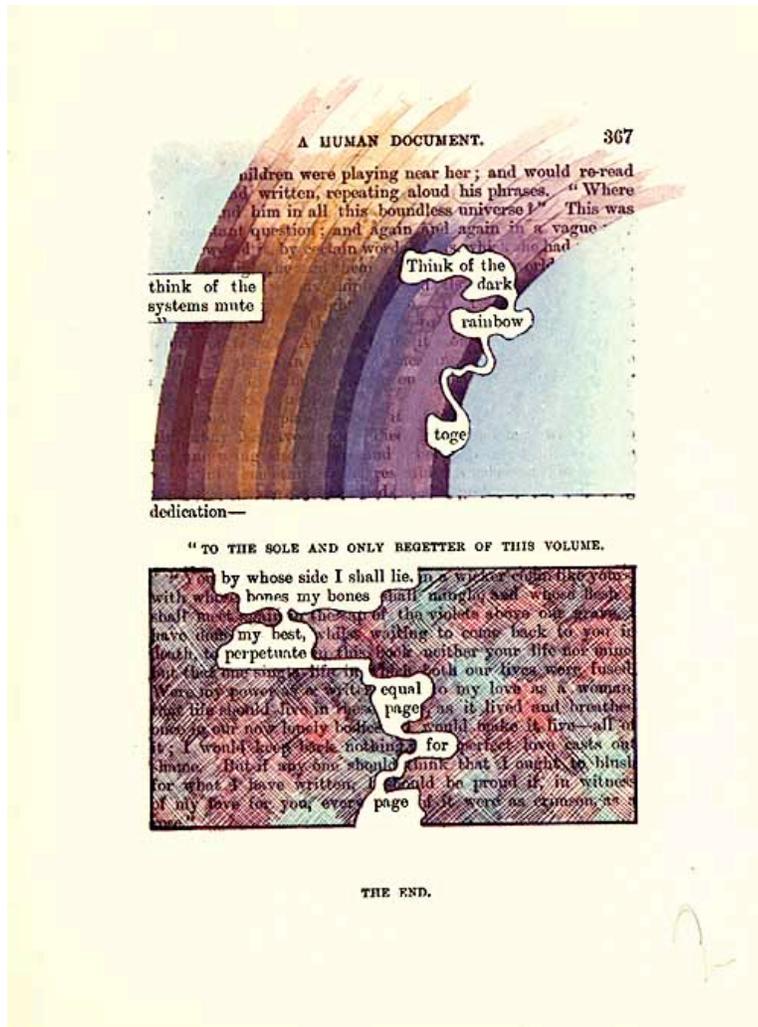# A Humament: A Treated Victorian Novel

"**I** took a forgotten Victorian novel found by chance. I plundered, mined, and **undermined** its text to make it yield the **ghosts** of other possible stories, scenes, poems, erotic incidents and **surrealist** catastrophes which seemed to lurk within its wall of words. As I worked on it, I replaced the text I'd stripped away with visual images of all kinds. **It began to tell and to depict,** amongst other memories, dreams and reflections, the **sad story** of one of **love's casualties.**"

Tom Phillips, *A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel*. NY: Thames and Hudson, 1987. Now in its fourth edition.

Dense novels, because of their length and depth, are most likely to have the rich language where poetry hides.

For this assignment, you will be creating an original free verse poem by "finding" well-written lines inside another writer's story. Because this is free verse, your poem will not rhyme or have a regular rhythm. You will transform prose into a poem. Start with a pencil and a light hand. Circle word groups that you think you want to keep in your poem. Look for a title to emerge or irresistible imagery, evocative description, energetic vocabulary. . .

Once your poem begins to take on its shape, consider how art will enhance it. Your poem may be abstract or a concrete picture may emerge. Look at several examples by Tom Phillips and former students to see the limitless possibilities.

Entire 1970 book available as graphic images at website

Entire Fourth Edition available at website as slideshow – http://humument.com/

Yahoo Altered Books Group in homage -- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alteredbooks/

It was A Human Document (1892), an obscure Victorian romance by W. H. Mallock. First published in 1973, A Humument—as Phillips titled his altered book—quickly established itself as a cult classic. Since then, Phillips has been working towards a complete revision of the original A Humument, replacing pages in successive editions. This process is now finished. This final edition presents, for the first time, an entirely revised and complete version of A Humument and brings to a close half a century of artistic endeavor. Tom Phillips writes: "I took a forgotten novel found by chance. Current track: A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel 1966-2016, read by Tom PhillipsA Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel 1966-2016, read by Tom Phillips. Like. Drop your files here. In the mid-1960s, Tom Phillips took a forgotten nineteenth-century novel, W. H. Mallock Read more at: http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/348378.A_Humument. Tags: @Books-Art Art Books. A Humument: A Treated Victorian Novel. Home > Books > Tom Phillips. Ranked #811 out of 950 in @Books-Art. In the mid-1960s, Tom Phillips took a forgotten nineteenth-century novel, W. H. Mallock Read more at: http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/348378.A_Humument. Web Summary Scores. 1 out of 5.