

# Hand Poems



## Activity 2 - Handword Poems

This next activity provides a variety of possible poetic models in which to use 'handwords'.

Your main support for this is the list of 'hand' words below for you to consider using in a poem or any piece of writing of your design. These could be used in a variation on the List Poems idea, or they could feature in a prose-poem story where you concoct a plot and/or narrative in which all of the words are used.

One intriguing idea to develop would be the model suggested by the following extract from Paul Muldoon's poem *They That Wash on Thursdays*. In his poem, each line ends with the word 'hand' or 'hands':

*...in this. He washed his hands  
Of the matter. He sat on his hands.  
So I learned first hand  
To deal in the off-, the under-,  
the sleight-of-hand...*

In your version, each line-ending could be a handword. Here are 39 examples, some familiar and some less common:

### Handwords

handful handmade handle handy  
handbag handkerchief handball  
  
handcuff handicap handicraft  
handmaid handyman handout  
handwriting  
  
handgrenade handgrip handhold  
handshake handpick handstand  
  
handbrake handbill handbarrow  
handfast handbreadth handily  
  
handler handlebar handrail  
handsome handset handsaw  
handspring  
  
handsel handsign hand-me-down  
hand-out Handel