

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