

Hand Poems



Sample Handword Poems

The following examples of poems using handwords are provided to give you suggestions for your own writing. The idea is to explore and create new structures and patterns as well as those provided by these samples.

The first poem is based on the Paul Muldoon extract. In this example, handwords are at the end of lines:

Handgrenade

*He was a handful.
There he stood, a handgrenade
ready to throw, his handgrip
on the pin tight like a handcuff,
but ready to lob as a handball
of pain....*

This next example places handwords at the beginning of lines:

Handle With Care

*Handshakes deliver emotions, a
handful of love or hate
handmade in the head.
Handle them carefully, each
handhold like some delicate
handicraft learnt at midnights....*

The last poem is a **haiku**, a short poetic structure of three lines. Each line also has a set number of syllables: line 1, five syllables; line 2, seven syllables; line 3, five syllables. In this example, there is one handword in each line, but placed anywhere in that line:

Haiku

*A handbreadth of thought
Light as her silk handkerchief,
Handpicked by wizards.*

Editing point: in the first draft of this poem, the second line read: *Light as a silk handkerchief* By altering *a* to *her*, a character is introduced into the poem and this adds interest and some mystery.