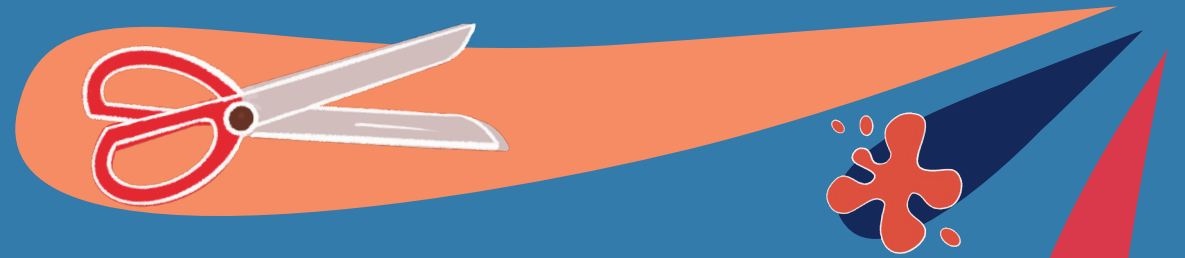


## Poetry Prompts: Week 20

# Hands

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 20 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. In this week's Poetry Prompt, you were challenged to write a poem about a stone on a stone. This poem by Joseph Coelho focuses on hands. After reading the poem, you'll be thinking about your own ideas for a poem based on hands.



### Read the poem:

Read the poem aloud. You could read this to yourself, with a friend or have someone else read it to you.

#### Arty

Hands on paint,  
hands on paper.  
Make a painting of  
splatter,  
splatter,  
splatter.

Fingers on screen,  
fingers tap app.  
Make a picture of  
swipe,  
swipe,  
swipe.

Hands in water,  
hands on clay.  
Make a model of  
squidge,  
squeeze,  
squeeze.

From *Blow a Kiss, Catch a Kiss* by Joseph Coelho  
(Andersen Press, 2022)

### Think about the poem:

Think about the words you just heard. What were you thinking about when you heard the poem? How did the poem make you feel? What made you feel this way?

The poem explored how our hands can be used for different art activities. What other things do we do with our hands? What are they used and useful for?



### Look at the language:

- Read the poem again and **circle or underline** the verbs that Joseph Coelho uses to **describe what the hands do** in the poem. With your own hands, see if you can **recreate these movements**, imagining your own hands doing these things. Can you use any other body parts to do the same actions? How about your feet?
- Think about **other actions** you could do with your hands. Write down as many verbs as you can to describe these actions. Which ones sound **most interesting** or **paint the best pictures** in your mind?

## Perform the poem:

- This poem is **very action based**, describing what the hands and fingers do as they carry out the art activities. Think about how you could **bring some of this action into a performance** of the poem. How will you make sure any actions you may decide to include **add to the performance**, and the listener's understanding of what is happening, rather than detract from it?
- Now, think about how you'll **use your voice** to perform the words. Make sure you keep your words **clear as you perform**, so your audience can understand them. How can you use your voice in different ways to bring out the meaning of the words involved? Will some parts be louder or quieter, faster or slower, higher or lower?
- **Rehearse your performance** a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else**. Did they feel part of this moment? What was it about your performance that drew them in?

Find all Poetry Prompts as well as more information about Joseph Coelho at [booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate](https://booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate)

## Write your own!

- Take a piece of paper and a pencil and **draw around one of your own hands**. Then **cut it out** with scissors.
- Think about things that you do with your own hands. What do you **use your hands for** on a daily basis? **Jot some initial ideas** down on a page. This might be some **words or phrases** that say what you do, or **specific verbs to describe the action** involved. For example, you might shake hands to make a friend. You might hold hands to show you care. You might use your hands to turn a screw to fix or build something. You might use your hands to write, gliding your pen across a page.
- You might find it helpful to **draw a picture** of the moment to help you describe it in words. You might **talk about your ideas** with someone else, to help you to describe them in writing and pick the right words to describe the actions.
- Use your thoughts to try and **draft a verse of your own**, which describes something you do with your hands. Think about what your hands are doing and specific words to describe their actions. You could **use the pattern** of the original poem to support you if you need to, or you could **break away from this to be freer** with your writing.
- When you've finished, **read it aloud** to someone else. Tell them **what you like** about your writing and talk about anything you might want to **work on to make it better**. When you've discussed it, **make any changes** that you wish to make and then **write it out onto the cut-out hand** that you made.

## Find and explore more poems about the body on CLPE's website.

This sequence of activities was designed in collaboration with CLPE. CLPE is a UK children's literacy charity working with primary schools to raise the achievement of children's reading and writing by helping schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, putting quality children's books at the heart of all learning. Find out more about their work and access further resources and training at [clpe.org.uk](https://clpe.org.uk).