

# These Are The Hands by Michael Rosen

These are the hands  
That touch us first  
Feel your head  
Find the pulse  
And make your bed.

These are the hands  
That tap your back  
Test the skin  
Hold your arm  
Wheel the bin  
Change the bulb  
Fix the drip  
Pour the jug  
Replace your hip

These are the hands  
That fill the bath  
Mop the floor  
Flick the switch  
Soothe the sore  
Burn the swabs  
Give us a jab  
Throw out sharps  
Design the lab.

And these are the hands  
That stop the leaks  
Empty the pan  
Wipe the pipes  
Carry the can  
Clamp the veins  
Make the cast  
Log the dose  
And touch us last.



*Terry Ross*

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### Short Poetry Comprehension/Tasks

1. Find and copy the following rhyming words.

Word 1	Word 2
head	
last	
jab	

2. Who are 'the hands'? Support your answer using **evidence** from the text.
3. List THREE things that the hands do/are responsible for.
4. How many imperative verbs can you find?
5. What is the picture describing? Could the girl be described as being intrigued? Why?

### Growth Mindset Challenge

6. Why has the poet not used much punctuation? What effect is he trying to create?

*If you would like a further task, could you write your own similar poem or explore other Michael Rosen poems? We are going to be looking more at this in the coming weeks.*

## Answers

1. head – bed                      last-cast                      jab – lab
2. The 'hands' are our fantastic NHS staff. This is known due to the image, the description of their roles and reference could be made to the range of staff due to the examples given.
3. Such as - 'soothe the sore', 'give us a jab' or 'mop the floor' for example.
4. Imperative verbs might have previously been learned as 'bossy verbs' they are used to give orders or commands. Examples from the poem could include 'wash', 'change' or 'test'.
5. The girl does seem intrigued. She is staring with interest at the doctor. This could be because of his actions or because of what he is wearing and how it might relate to her own treatment.
6. The poet wishes for you to read the poem at a quick pace to reinforce the points he is making. It also gives the poem rhythm.