

## Hands<sup>1</sup>

Hands  
Black, white,  
Freckled, tanned.  
Every hand is different.  
The doctor's hands, a patient's trust. 5  
The patient's hands, a doctor's work.

All hands have purpose.  
Gardening hands are Father's,  
Landscaping hands are Mother's,  
Painting hands are Brother's. 10

Each is unusual.  
Small, soft hands belong to Baby Anna.  
Wrinkly, spotted hands belong to Grandma Ruth.  
Character in every one.  
My hands 15



Long,  
Slender fingers.  
Nails.  
Coloured, glittered,  
Painted. 20  
My hands.

Writing my thoughts,  
Telling my dreams,  
Flipping the pages of my favourite  
Book. 25

My hands.  
My past.  
My future.

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<sup>1</sup> Claire Harvey. Reprinted with permission. Published in the Toronto District School Board's *Urban Voices/ L'écho de la ville* in 2000

17. How is this poem organized?

- ☐ in stanzas
- ☐ in chapters
- ☐ with labels
- ☐ with headings

18. In this poem, the word “my” refers to

- ☐ a doctor.
- ☐ Baby Anna.
- ☐ the speaker.
- ☐ Grandma Ruth.

19. In line 24, what does the word “flipping” mean?

- ☐ turning
- ☐ folding
- ☐ sliding
- ☐ following

20. The speaker finds hands interesting because each pair of hands

- ☐ can use garden tools.
- ☐ is freckled and tanned.
- ☐ is different from the others.
- ☐ can flip the pages of a book.

21. Explain why the speaker repeats the phrase “My hands” several times in this poem. Use information from the selection to support your answer.

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22. Explain which hands in the poem are the most interesting to you. Use information from the selection and your own ideas to support your answer.

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## The Bad Mood Blues<sup>1</sup>

You *wake* up in the morning and  
you *know* it's there

BAD MOOOD

BAD MOOOD

From underneath the covers  
you can feel it in the air

BAD MOOOD

BAD MOOOD

5

*Everything* goes wrong the day  
you wake up in the dumps  
you know your socks have vanished  
and your hair has gone in clumps

10

your milk is spilling everywhere  
your brother has to *poke* you.  
and everybody's bugging you  
and say it's just a *joke*, you

15

know it isn't fair and know  
you're totally upset

and the *day* hasn't even

the *day* hasn't even

the *day* hasn't even

20

S T A R T E D Y E T



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<sup>1</sup> Loris Lesynski, from "*I Did It Because...: How a Poem Happens*," Annick Press, 2006. Reprinted with permission.

So whatcha gonna do  
when you wake up feeling blue,  
gotta figure out a way to  
get a rhythm to the day 25

and BEAT BEAT BEAT  
BEAT BEAT BEAT  
BEAT BEAT BEAT  
the BAD MOOD away 30  
BAD M O O O D

7. In line 6, what does the speaker feel in the air?

- ☐ a mood
- ☐ a thought
- ☐ the covers
- ☐ the morning

8. What do the words “whatcha gonna do” mean as used in line 23?

- ☐ What could you do?
- ☐ What should you do?
- ☐ What do you want to do?
- ☐ What are you going to do?

9. What do lines 25-26 tell the reader?

- ☐ how to get rid of a bad mood
- ☐ how to prepare for a bad mood
- ☐ what it means to be in a bad mood
- ☐ what happens if a day begins with a bad mood

10. In lines 27-29, why does the word “beat” repeat and shrink?

- ☐ to show the bad mood is gone
- ☐ to show the words are growing
- ☐ to show the bad mood is fading
- ☐ to show the sound is getting louder

11. Describe how the speaker may feel in lines 21-22 when the speaker says “the day hasn’t even started.” Use details from the text and your own ideas to support your answer.

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12. Explain how lines 11-16 relate to the title of the text. Use details from the text to support your answer.

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13. Write a paragraph to explain why you liked a story that you read or heard this year.

Ideas for My Paragraph

**Remember:**

- **Check over your work.**
- **Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation.**



Write your paragraph here.

[illegible]

**Do not write  
in this area.**

