

What or who are they?

This task is about making inferences to predict what a poem could be about.

Read the following poem by David Hill (from *School Journal, Part 4, no. 1*, 2002 or available at NZPoetryBox) in three parts, one part at a time.

After reading each part, use the left hand boxes to **predict** all the things you think the poem is describing. Use the right hand boxes to **explain** how the evidence in the text, and what you know, supports your predictions.

**There they were this morning,
High up on an office block.**

Part 1

I think this poem could
be describing any one of these things: because:

**There they were this morning,
High up on an office block.**

**One was polishing the sun,
Another rinsing fleecy clouds,
A third rubbing the blue sky.**

Part 2

Now I think this poem could be describing any one of these things: because:

**There they were this morning,
High up on an office block.**

**One was polishing the sun,
Another rinsing fleecy clouds,
A third rubbing the blue sky.**

**If I come back tonight,
Will they still be there -
One scrubbing the shooting stars,
Another washing the moon,
A third wiping down the Milky Way?**

Part 3

Now I think this poem could be describing any one of these things: because:

Pause, look, and think back:

How did the verbs 'polishing, rinsing, rubbing, scrubbing, washing, wiping' help you understand what this poem could be about?

The focus of this task has been making inferences. Describe **when** and **how** you used any of the following reading strategies:

Making connections between what I know

yes/ no

Asking questions

yes/ no

Creating a picture in my head, or visualising

yes/ no

Identifying the writer's purpose

yes/ no

Identifying the main idea

yes/ no

Summarising

yes/ no

Analysing and synthesising ideas and information

yes/ no

Evaluating ideas and information

yes/ no