

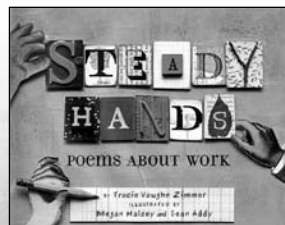


Building Your Career:

Creating Your Own Career Poem

Steady Hands: Poems About Work celebrates the doing of work in a wide variety of forms. It also celebrates workers. All in all, ***Steady Hands*** is sure to inspire discussion, creative writing, art projects, and new answers to the old question, What do you want to do when you grow up?

1. Research a job you're interested in or interview someone who holds that job to find out what a typical day is like. Try to visit him or her in the workplace.
2. Discover details. Try to find out some odd facts about the career that only an insider would know. Use your senses. What would you see, hear, smell, taste, touch on the job?
3. List verbs you might use to describe the actions needed for the job.
4. Imagine that you're taking a snapshot—one moment of the day—of the person at work. What would you focus on?
5. Draft your poem. Play with similes, metaphors, personification, and so on. Experiment with line breaks. Use strong, vivid words and images.
6. Read your poem out loud. Revise, revise, revise until it sounds just right.
7. Create an illustration for your poem inspired by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy's multilayered collages. You can use small objects, photos, dried leaves and flowers, your own drawings or paintings, and paper of all kinds, including magazine and newspaper clippings, wrapping paper, packaging, stationery, notebook pages, maps—whatever suits your poem.



by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer
illustrated by Megan Halsey
and Sean Addy
978-0-618-90351-1

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group • Clarion Books • www.hmhbooks.com/poetrykit

Copyright 2009 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All Rights Reserved.

