

BOOK STUFF

**"Reading gives us some place to go
when we have to stay where we are."**

Mason Cooley

POEM OF THE WEEK

These are the Hands
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.

**Written in 2008 for the 60th birthday
of the NHS**

BOOK TRIVIA

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury was named after the temperature paper burns. Ray Bradbury called a local fire station to ask. He was put on hold while the firemen burned a book, then reported back the temperature.

WRITE A HAIKU

We'd love to hear them! A Haiku is 17 syllables, 3 lines, 5/7/5.

e.g.

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.

BOOK REVIEW

Are you part of a reading group? Or just read a book you liked? Tell us about it here:

STORY CHALLENGE

Can you write a good story in exactly **six words**? Here are a few examples:

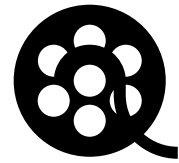
'See that shadow? It's not yours.'

'Womb. Bloom. Groom. Rheum. Tomb.'

'Breaking: simulated beings discover they're simulated.'



Books and Films



1. What film about the Vietnam war was inspired by a short novel by Joseph Conrad about the brutality of European imperialists in Africa? And what was the novel called?
2. What film was based on Philip K Dick's sci fi novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
3. Who wrote *The Godfather* novel, who directed the movie and who starred as the central character in the film?
4. Who wrote *The Shining* and who stars as the central character in the film?
5. Who wrote *A Clockwork Orange* and who directed the film?

(answers below)

A Moral Dilemma: A Good Bribe?

The Prime Minister liked to think of himself as a 'pretty straight kind of guy'. He genuinely despised corruption and sleaze in government and wanted to run a cleaner, more honest administration.

Something had happened however that presented him with a real dilemma. At a Downing Street reception a businessman known for his lack of scruples but who did not have a criminal or civil conviction against him, took the PM aside. Whispering conspiratorially into the PM's ear, he said, 'Many people don't like me and don't respect the way I run my affairs. I don't give a damn about that. What does annoy me is that my reputation means I'll never be honoured by my country.

'Well', he continued, 'I'm sure you and I can do something about that. I'm prepared to give £10 million to help provide clean water for hundreds and thousands of people in Africa if you can guarantee me that I'll be knighted in the New Year's honours list. If not, I'll just spend it on myself.'

He slapped the PM on the back and said, 'Think it over,' and slipped back into the crowd. The Prime Minister knew this was a kind of bribe. But could it really be wrong to sell one of his country's highest honours when the reward would be so obviously for the good?



From Julian Baggini, *The Pig that Wants to be Eaten and 99 Other Thought Experiments*

Books and film answers

1. *Apocalypse Now*, *Heart of Darkness*
2. *Blade Runner*
3. Mario Puzo, Martin Scorsese, Marlon Brando
4. Stephen King, Jack Nicholson
5. Anthony Burgess, Stanley Kubrick