

The background of the entire cover is a purple grid. Several hands are shown in various colors (brown, green) performing different tasks: painting yellow letters, using pliers, hammering a nail, holding a pin, and drawing a wavy line. A wooden sign is also present with the words 'Hands Are' carved into it.

Whose

Hands Are

These?

A Community Helper Guessing Book

MIRANDA PAUL

illustrations by LUCIANA NAVARRO POWELL

Whose Hands Are These?



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Miranda Paul

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 Millbrook Press/Minneapolis

For the teachers who encouraged me to dream big, especially Jeanne Craanen;
Anne Dettmann; and my mom, Theresa Williams —M.P.

To Maria José and Osvaldo, whose loving hands were the first to guide me,
and to Michael, Alexander and Nicolas: my favorite hands to hold —L.N.P.

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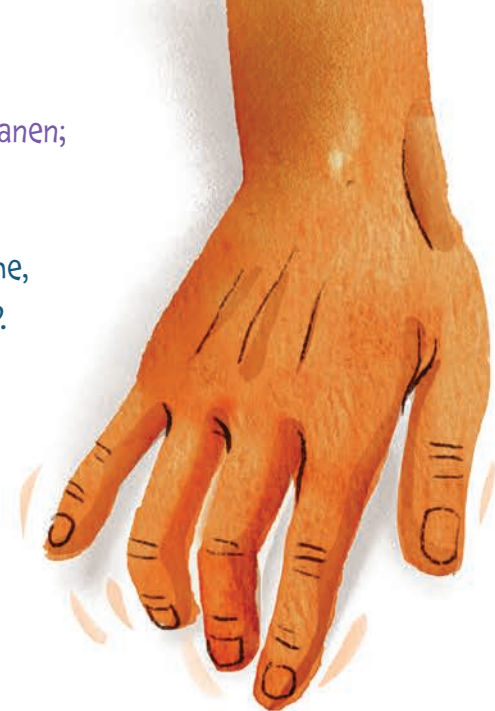
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Many Kinds of Helping Hands

Farmers grow crops—vegetables, fruits, or other plants—or raise animals. Some farmers who raise cattle are called ranchers. Farmers who grow crops must plant their crops, take care of them, and then harvest them. Most farmers use machines such as combines or tractors to gather their crops. Farm jobs go beyond planting and harvesting, though. There are more than two hundred farm-related careers, including fishing, selling, or delivering farm products, and managing parks and forests.



Cooks turn ordinary—and not so ordinary—foods into delicious meals. Some cooks are called chefs. Cooks and chefs often work in restaurants, but some work in schools, at campgrounds, aboard cruise ships, or even in TV studios. In many restaurants, the head chef plans menus and manages the other chefs. Line cooks (also called station chefs) are usually in charge of one area in the kitchen, such as a grill. Or they might prepare one kind of food, such as soup. Pastry chefs bake desserts. One thing all cooks have in common is that they must keep their hands clean!



Firefighters control and put out building fires, house fires, and wildfires. Most firefighters are emergency responders, taking action when people are hurt or in danger, and providing basic medical help. After an accident or storm, firefighters might rescue people or animals who are stuck or trapped. They sometimes assist after oil spills or when harmful chemicals make an area unsafe. Some firefighters perform their duties as part of a paid job, while others are volunteers. All firefighters take classes and practice fire and rescue drills as they train. Firefighters also clean and drive emergency vehicles, inspect buildings, write reports, and teach safety tips to adults and kids.





Scientists explore, study, and figure out how our world works. There are many kinds of scientists. Biologists study living things. Astronomers study stars and planets in outer space. Physicists study energy and the forces of nature. Chemists study the tiny particles that make up the world. Geologists study rocks and soil, and meteorologists study weather and climate. Scientists use tools such as microscopes or telescopes to make observations. They can also use scales, rulers, or glass tubes and cylinders to make measurements. Their hands also stay busy writing and typing their results into lab reports!



Potters shape clay into decorations or usable items such as cups, plates, or vases. Pottery is an art form, so a potter is one kind of artist. Some potters work at companies with other artists, but many work by themselves and own their own businesses. Since ancient times, potters have used wheels that allow them to turn the clay as they work with it. Potters use carving tools, such as special knives and needles, and frames called molds to shape and design their creations. Paintbrushes help potters decorate or glaze the products.



News reporters are also called journalists. They find out what is happening and share up-to-date information with the public. Journalists do research to learn about the latest news. They read documents, attend events, or interview people to learn what is going on. Then they might report their findings in newspapers, on websites, on TV, or on the radio. Some journalists write articles or put together short presentations. Other journalists take photos or video clips. Some news reporters do all of these things!



Mechanics help fix or take care of machines such as cars, planes, or factory equipment. Some mechanics are called technicians. Auto mechanics work on cars and trucks. Marine mechanics work on boats, ships, and submarines. Aviation mechanics work with planes, rockets, and jets. Industrial mechanics work with factory or mining equipment. Besides fixing machines, mechanics sometimes test new inventions or take apart old equipment so the parts can be reused.



Architects design buildings and supervise their construction. Some architects are also called engineers. Architects create detailed drawings, or blueprints, of how a building will look. They make careful measurements and come up with directions for the people who will construct the building. They also help choose building materials, and they go to construction sites to make sure their plans work. Tools that architects use range from special pencils and paper to high-tech computers and printers. To become an architect, a person takes classes in math, drawing, engineering, and design.



Referees supervise sporting events. They watch players closely to make sure everyone follows the rules and no one gets hurt. Depending on the sport, referees may be called umpires, judges, or officials. Referees must know the rules of a game and be good at paying attention. If players can't agree on something that happens—such as whether a player was out of bounds, whether a player scored fairly, or whether a player broke the rules—the referees decide. They often use hand signals to tell players and fans their decisions. Referees' work schedules change often, and they often travel with their teams. Some referees begin their careers as athletes or coaches. Then, to become officials, they must pass a test on the rules of their game.



Physicians are usually called doctors, and some are called surgeons. They try to help people stay or become healthy. Many physicians examine patients, perform medical tests, and give out medicine. Some physicians specialize, or become best, in a specific area—such as diagnosing allergies or treating certain kinds of diseases. Ophthalmologists take care of eyes. Neurologists take care of the brain. Surgeons perform operations to fix big injuries or to fight diseases inside the body. Most doctors spend ten or more years in school (after high school!) studying and training for their jobs.



Teachers help their students learn. Teachers can also be called educators, instructors, or professors. Professors teach college students. Other kinds of teachers work with students from preschool up to high school. Besides leading their classrooms, teachers make lesson plans, grade papers and projects, attend meetings, speak with parents, and arrange for class visitors or field trips. Teachers encourage students to explore all kinds of subjects—and their students grow up to do every kind of job listed in this book . . . plus many more!

Author's Note

When I was young, I changed my mind every time someone asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I pictured myself doing all kinds of things, from performing onstage to scuba diving to being president of the United States! Over the years, I’ve worked as a store clerk, a volunteer zookeeper, a teacher, a writer, and more. I’ve discovered that hands can help our world in many ways and it’s OK to be more than one thing. Dream big!

Miranda Paul is an award-winning children's book author. Her recent books include *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*, a Junior Library Guild selection. Besides writing, her hands are good at cooking, playing games, and tickling kids. She lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with her husband and two children. Find out more at www.mirandapaul.com.

Luciana Navarro Powell was born in Brazil and worked as a product and graphic designer before becoming an illustrator. She incorporates watercolor, photographs, and scanned objects into her artwork. For this book, she drew inspiration from her own life and community—one of the architects is her father! She lives with her husband and two children in San Diego, California.



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Hands can wiggle, hands can clap.
Hands can wrap and flap and tap.
But hands can help—so raise yours, please!
Can you guess?
Whose hands are these?

