



Washday for the clouds  
By Bev Kemp

The sky is drying  
his shape-changing sheets  
on the west wind today.

He rinsed the sheets  
last night, and pounded them  
on the thunder stones.

Tomorrow, when the sheets  
have aired,  
there will be dragons  
and castles in the sky.

*Source: '100 New Zealand Poems for Children', Illustrated by David Elliot, Edited by Jo Noble.  
Random House, 1999.*

# Washday for the clouds

Read the poem and answer the questions below.

a) This poem says that clouds are like sheets. What are two ways clouds are like sheets?

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

b) This poem gives clues about what the weather is like at different times. Draw pictures or write in words on the chart below to show what the weather is like at different times in the poem.

Time	Weather
Last night	
Today	
Tomorrow	

c) In this poem the sky is described as if it is a person. What does the sky do in this poem which makes it seem like a person?

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d) The end of this poem says "there will be dragons and castles in the sky." What does this really mean?

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