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## Poems by doctors

### Viruses

Glenn Colquhoun

Viruses are my sister's children  
who have come to stay at my place  
for the weekend.

They try to get into the cupboards.

They draw with thick crayons  
on the back of my throat.

They run up and down the inside of my head  
with small hands covered in marmite and jam  
which takes forever to get off the walls.

They bang pots and pans on the floor.

They wipe their feet on the centre of my tongue.

The cry loudly in the middle of the night.

Sometimes they swing  
on that dangly thing which hangs  
from the back of my mouth  
until I cough.

I eat broken biscuits all week.

No wonder my nose runs.

Glenn Colquhoun was born in Auckland, New Zealand and is a doctor practising in Te Tai Tokerau, Northland. He was the winner of the 2003 Montana New Zealand book award for poetry. This poem is from *Playing God*, Steele Roberts. Another of Glenn's poems was published in the February 2010 issue of the *Journal*.

Poem chosen by Femi Oyeboode.

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