

What type of person is this?

Lifelong adjustor of environments

Lord

World authority

Connoisseur

A dab hand

What type of person is this?

Hands shamble

Small things distress

Self-demoted

forgotten

timetabled

Ramble in your talk

fretting

Obdurate in your helplessness

Read the poem, 'Old Man, Old Man',
by U A Fanthorpe and write down
your initial responses to it.

In other words, write down the
most striking image or what you
remember most

‘He was always / A man who did-
it-himself.’

‘Now you ramble / In your talk
around London districts’

What has happened to the man?

'You said to me'



Who do you think the speaker is?

What evidence do you have?

‘He lives in a world of small recalcitrant /
Things in bottles’

‘Self-demoted in your nineties’

Why does the speaker
change from speaking
about ‘he’?

To addressing the man
directly?

‘Living in almost-dark’

What two meanings could there be to this?

Why is there a reference to the hammer at the beginning and end of the poem?

Why, for example, didn't the poet refer once to a wrench, spanner or screwdriver?

‘not good with daughters’

What do you think the speaker means?

What small routines are mentioned in the poem?

Why?

'I love / Your helplessness'

Why?

Do you feel sorry for the man?

Do you feel sorry for the speaker?

Explain why you sympathise with
either or both characters.

'I am only a cloud'

Why does the poem end like this?

Identity

Why is the poem included in this section?

Links and connections

In what ways can you compare and contrast this poem with others you have studied?