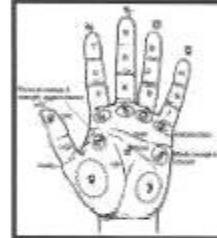


Hand Poems



Activity 4 - Palm Poems

For many centuries, people have believed that it is possible to predict a person's future by reading the palm of their hand. The following poem by the Greek philosopher Aristotle (384-322 B.C. – so a long time ago!) presents the idea of studying the lines in the palm of the hand to see into the future (*Fate and Fortune*) and even take steps to avoid doing anything wrong later in life (*from Virtue stray*):



*Thus he that Nature rightly understands,
May from each Line imprinted in his Hands,
His future Fate and Fortune come to know,
And what path it is his feet shall go:
His secret Inclinations he may see,
And to what Vice he shall addicted be:
To th' End that when he looks into his Hand,
He may upon his Guard the better stand;
And turn his wandering Steps another way,
Whene'er he finds he does from Virtue stray*

Similar to the 'Trace Hand' activity, it would be interesting to write a poem based around the theory of palm reading. To do this, you will need to do some research either in the library or on the Internet. As you can imagine, palm reading is not a traditional science, so there are many strange and eccentric interpretations of this activity. Your teacher may direct you to particular resources and/or web sites, but those that deal with the established conventions of palm reading will be the most useful.