

Hand Poems



To get you started, here are some of the basics:

- The fingers are named after planets: *Jupiter*, *Apollo*, *Venus*, *Saturn* and *Mercury*. Can you guess which planet applies to which finger?
- After the fingers, there are three areas of the palm from which to gather information: *Mounts*, *Major Lines* and *Minor Lines*
- Some of the names for these other areas of the hand are: *Gridle of Venus*, *Chiron's Bundle*, *Mount of Mars*, *Mystic Cross* and *Diana's Arrow*.

Any of the above names could be used as titles for poems to prompt particular ideas about people being described. The *Mystic Cross*, for example, is said to represent someone's spiritual life and a poem could be built around this idea, using the lines in the palm to represent the journeys taken throughout someone's life. The *Mount of Mars* is concerned with someone's aggressive side and this could lead to ideas about describing historical figures, past or present, who display violent tendencies.

Continuing yet again with the idea of using repeated lines, writing using alternating lines like the following could build up an interesting palm poem:

*Her major lines wear their heart on a torn sleeve
Her minor lines are snapshots of laughing children
Her major lines draw a furrowing brow
Her minor lines are a jackpot that never comes...*

The above lines are based on an Internet description of what the major and minor lines reveal. They also begin to work to a pattern: lines 1 and 3 use verbs (*wear* and *draw*) to make the lines metaphoric, and lines 2 and 4 are more literal as descriptions.

Whilst you have been warned against using rhyme, there could be some challenge in making alternating lines rhyme. For example *sleeve* at the end of line 1 could be rhymed with *grieve* at the end of line 3. So the poem could become:

*Her major lines wear their heart on one torn sleeve
Her minor lines are snapshots of children having fun
Her major lines draw a furrowing brow to grieve
Her minor lines are a jackpot that will never be won...*

Editing point: What this second version does represent is the process of editing a poem, and these four lines might have to be changed again and again to get them right.

However, you should only attempt this if the rhymes help you to say what you really want to say!