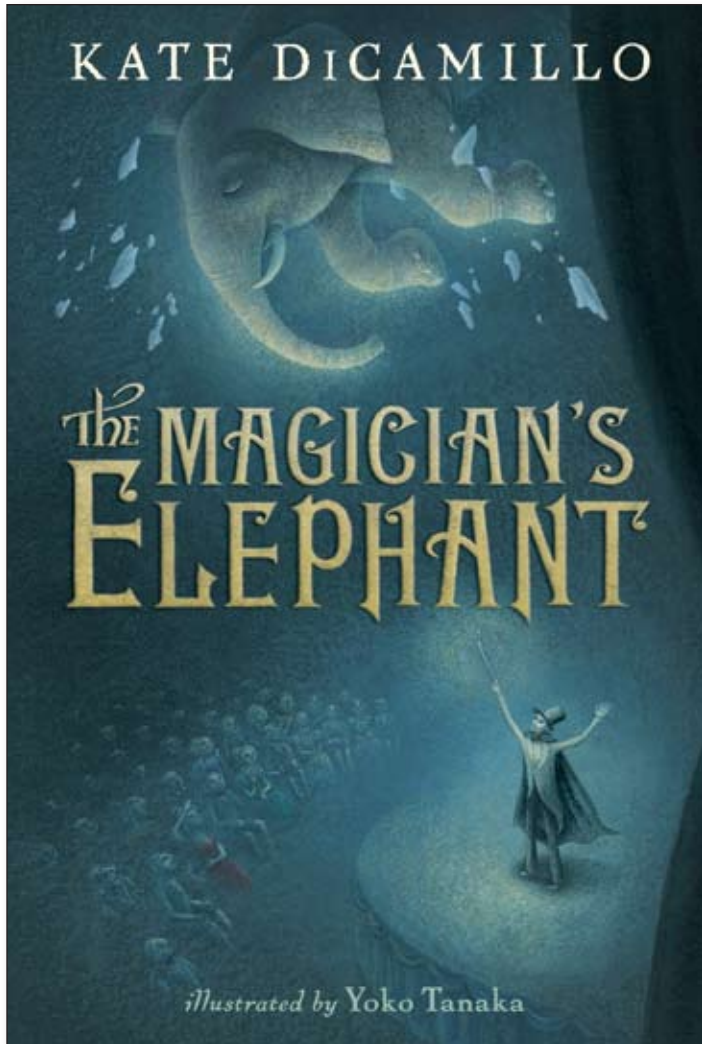


THE MAGICIAN'S TOOL KIT
Six Magical Activities



*“Magic is always impossible,”
said the magician. “It begins
with the impossible and ends
with the impossible and is
impossible in between.
That is why it is magic.”*

The Magician's Elephant

BY KATE DICAMILLO
ILLUSTRATED BY YOKO TANAKA

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The Fortuneteller's Prediction

"There is, indeed, an elephant. It is true. . . ."

"Where?"

"I cannot say," said Leo Matienne. "I cannot say because I am afraid that I do not know."

THE EFFECT

The magician explains that he or she has six special cards that represent the story of *The Magician's Elephant*. The purpose of this trick is for the audience to think there is a special force at work that leads a volunteer to select the elephant card instead of one of the other cards.

The best way to perform this trick is to practice it and memorize the scenarios for revealing the card. Become comfortable with each "reveal" strategy and wording so that you can perform any of them with ease. The more natural you are, the better the audience will follow along and be impressed by your skills!

MATERIALS

You will need the six story cards provided.

PREPARATION

Print the sheet with the six small cards onto card stock or sturdy paper, and cut them out. Take the card with the elephant on it and turn it over. With a pencil, put a very small, very light dot in the lower left-hand corner of the blank side. This is for your eyes only!

To get ready to do the trick, place the cards in a pile, faceup, in the following sequence (from bottom to top): elephant, lilies, crystal ball, bread, fish, and florit.

PERFORMING THE TRICK

Now that the cards are in the correct order, take the pile and hold it in your right hand. You are now going to show the audience the cards. One by one, place the cards on the table for the audience to see as you describe each card's picture.

SAY	DO
Peter Augustus Duchene was given a florit . . .	Show the florit card, and place it on the table
to go into town to buy fish . . .	Show the fish card, and place it on the table
and bread.	Show the bread card, and place it on the table
While in town, he met a fortuneteller.	Show the crystal ball card, and place it on the table
She made a prediction that an elephant would lead him to his sister.	(Nothing—do not show the elephant card yet!)
Peter was confused by that at first. Then, later, he heard that a magician was trying to make a bouquet of lilies appear during his show . . .	Show the lilies card, and place it on the table
but amazingly, and magically, an elephant appeared instead.	Show the elephant card, and place it on the table
	Turn all the cards facedown.
I'll need a volunteer to mix up the cards while keeping them facedown.	Choose a spectator to mix up the cards.
Wonderful! You may sit down.	Slide the cards into a straight line. While doing this, subtly look for the card with the dot in the corner. Position it so that it is the third card from the left. Try to do this casually, so that it appears that you are just lining up the edges of the cards. The result you need is for the dotted card to have two other cards to its left and three to its right, in a straight line.
It is now time for you to become the magician. Let's see if you can make the elephant appear. Name a number between one and six.	Point to your volunteer so he/she will choose a number.

The Fortuneteller's Prediction

(CONTINUED)

IF THE VOLUNTEER SAYS	SAY	DO
One	O, N, E	Point to one card for each letter from left to right, stopping on E.
Two	T, W, O	Point to one card for each letter from left to right, stopping on O.
Three	1, 2, 3	Point to one card for each number from left to right, stopping on 3.
Four	1, 2, 3, 4	Point to one card for each number from <i>right to left</i> , stopping on 4.
Five	F, I, V, E	Point to one card for each letter from <i>right to left</i> , stopping on E.
Six	S, I, X	Point to one card for each letter from left to right, stopping on X.
	Amazingly and magically, you have chosen the elephant card from among all the others!	Turn over and show the elephant card!

When reading or counting the numbers, touch a finger to each card when you are speaking each letter or number. This helps the audience to follow along. Remember, the purpose here is for you to always arrive at the card with the dot on it.

OPTIONAL

A fun way to reveal the card you landed on is to push it forward (facedown) so that it sticks out from the row. Then turn over each of the other cards to build the suspense, saying, "You didn't pick the <name card>, or the <name card>, or the <name card>, or the <name card>, or the <name card>, so . . ."

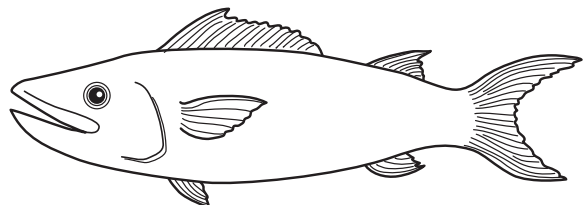
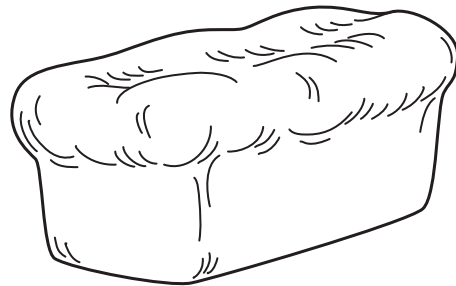
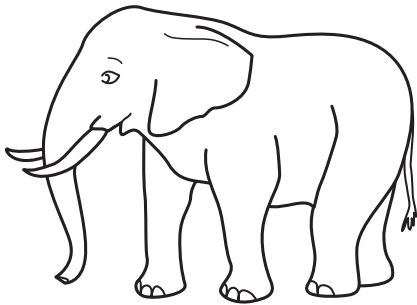
HOW IT WORKS

By positioning the key card in the same location every time, you will always be able to arrive at that card using a set of predetermined patterns. The secret is that you make it seem to the audience that you are simply following the volunteer's lead and that he or she is in control.

"The Fortuneteller's Prediction" prepared by Brian Dwyer,
a professional entertainer working in the Boston area.

The Fortuneteller's Prediction

(CONTINUED)



Find the Elephant

She was struck with a peculiar feeling of having been well and truly seen, of having at last been found, saved.

THE EFFECT

Three different size elephants are shown: a small elephant, a medium-size elephant, and a large elephant. The spectator chooses one of the elephants at random, and the magician reveals a note stating that he or she knew the spectator was going to choose that particular one! To make sure you can perform this trick smoothly, practice each of the scenarios ahead of time. Remind yourself how to proceed depending on which elephant the volunteer chooses so that you can perform the trick seamlessly.

MATERIALS

You will need the three elephant cards, the magician's prediction card, the crystal ball card, and an envelope.

PREPARATION

Print the sheet with the three elephant cards, the magician's prediction card, and the crystal ball card onto card stock or sturdy paper, and cut them all out.

On the back of the small elephant card, write:

You will choose this one.

On the back of the crystal ball card, write:

You will choose the medium-size elephant.

On the back of the prediction card, write:

You will choose the large elephant.

To get ready to do the trick, place the cards in the envelope so they are all facing the same direction. The three elephants should be together so that you can take them all out at the same time. It is important that the audience doesn't see the words, only the pictures. See sketch for an example of a nice way to align the envelope contents.

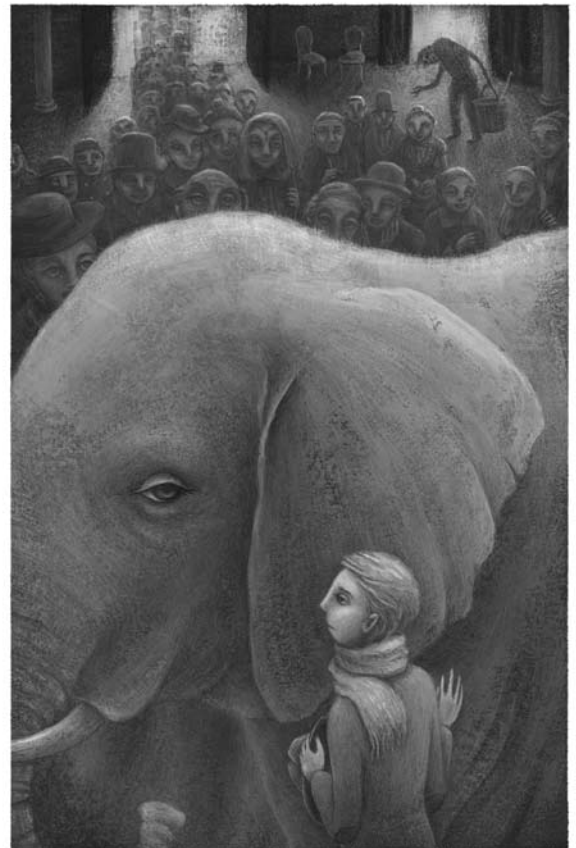
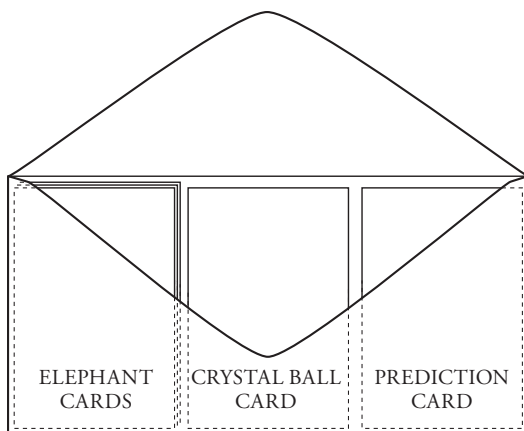


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Find the Elephant

(CONTINUED)

PERFORMING THE TRICK

SAY	DO
We have three different size elephants here. A small elephant, a medium-size elephant, and a large elephant.	Pick up the envelope and take out the three elephant cards. Place them faceup in front of your audience.
Just like the fortuneteller in <i>The Magician's Elephant</i> , I am using a crystal ball to make a prediction about an elephant.	Take the crystal ball card out of the envelope, and place the envelope back on the table beside the elephant cards. With the crystal ball side facing the audience, wave it over the three elephant cards.
I'll need a volunteer from the audience.	Keeping the crystal ball card in one hand, choose a spectator to come forward.
Please point to the elephant you like the best.	

What you say and do next depends on which of the three cards the person points to. There are three scenarios.

IF THE VOLUNTEER CHOOSES	SAY	DO
The small elephant	You have chosen the small elephant!	Turn over the small elephant card to reveal the message on the back: <i>You will choose this one.</i>
	You probably think that all of the cards have the same message on the back! But feel free to look behind the other two elephants, and you will see that those are blank!	Turn over the medium-size and large elephant cards to prove that they are blank on the reverse.
The medium-size elephant	You have chosen the medium-size elephant!	Point to the crystal ball card in your hand, then turn it over to reveal the message: <i>You will choose the medium-sized elephant.</i>
The large elephant	You have chosen the large elephant!	Invite the spectator to pick up the envelope and take out the prediction card that is inside, to reveal the message: <i>You will choose the large elephant.</i>

After the appropriate prediction is read, collect all the cards and place them back in the envelope. (Note that if the large elephant wasn't selected, then the prediction card was never removed from the envelope.)

HOW IT WORKS

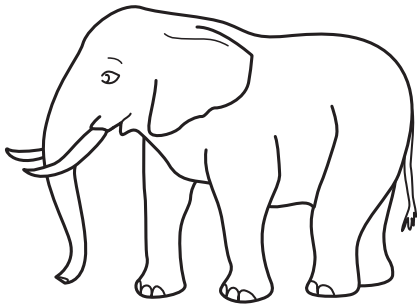
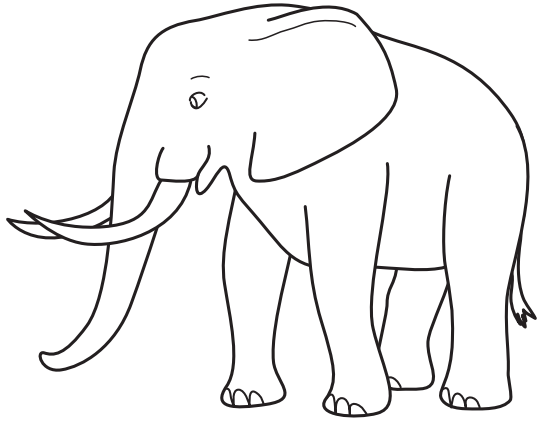
Since the prediction messages are pre-set, the magician simply needs to remember which message will match the choice made by the volunteer.

To maintain the suspense and mystery of this trick, do not repeat it to the same audience right away. You want to leave them guessing as to what your secret is.

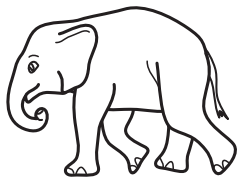
"Find the Elephant" prepared by Brian Dwyer, a professional entertainer working in the Boston area.

Find the Elephant

(CONTINUED)



My Prediction



Send the Elephant Home

If the world held magic powerful enough to make the elephant appear, then there must exist, too, magic in equal measure, magic powerful enough to undo what had been done.

There must be magic that could send the elephant home.

THE EFFECT

The magician puts a rubber band around two fingers on his or her hand and starts a story about how an elephant, represented by the rubber band, is stuck in a strange, foreign place and needs to get back home. The magician counts to three, and the “elephant” magically jumps from the first two fingers on his or her hand to the last two.

THE SECRET

The secret to the jumping elephant lies in secretly wrapping the rubber band around all four fingers.

MATERIALS

A rubber band.

PERFORMING THE TRICK

SAY	DO
Here we have the magician’s elephant. . . OK, it’s actually a rubber band, but that’s fine because it’s much easier to hold in my hand!	Hold up the rubber band in your left hand.
Abracadabra! The elephant dropped into a crowded theater.	Hold up your right hand with the palm of your hand facing you and the back of your hand facing your audience. Place the rubber band over the first two fingers of your right hand, all the way down to the knuckles closest to your palm.
Well, that was surprising, wasn’t it?	With all four fingers of your left hand inside the rubber band, pull the elastic back toward you so that the four fingers of your right hand have room to fit inside the rubber band as you make a fist. Ease the rubber band onto the four fingers of your right hand just above the fingernails and remove your left hand.
Now the poor elephant is stuck in a foreign land.	With your left hand, point to the two fingers that have the rubber band on them.
We have to help her magically get back home.	Point to the fingers that do not have the rubber band on them.
Let’s see if we can help her. Please count with me. One . . . two . . .	
Three!	Wave your left hand in front of your right and quickly open your right hand; the rubber band will jump from the first two fingers to the last two.
We did it!	

PREPARATION

A little bit of practice!

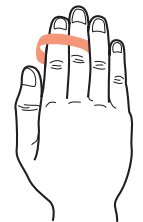
HOW IT WORKS

The rubber band jumps because it is wrapped around all four fingers on your fingernail side, but it is wrapped around the top (visible) part of your first two fingers only. When your hand is closed into a fist, the audience should see the rubber band on your first two fingers only.

When you straighten your fingers quickly, the band automatically flips over and rings around the second pair of fingers.

MAGICIAN’S VIEW

AUDIENCE’S VIEW



“Send the Elephant Home” prepared by Brian Dwyer, a professional entertainer working in the Boston area.

The Fortuneteller's Tent

Attached to the fortuneteller's tent was a piece of paper, and penned upon the paper in a cramped but unapologetic hand were these words: The most profound and difficult questions that could possibly be posed by the human mind or heart will be answered within for the price of one florit.

Make your own fortuneteller's tent, and take turns asking and answering questions with your friends.

TO CREATE YOUR FORTUNETELLER'S TENT:

1. Cut out the fortuneteller's tent shape provided.
2. First do some preparatory folding: Fold the square in half, crease, and unfold; repeat in the opposite direction. Then fold one corner to the opposite corner to form a triangle; crease, unfold, and repeat in the opposite direction.
3. Turn the square facedown, and fold all four corners in to meet in the middle.
4. Turn the square back over, and fold the new corners in so they meet in the middle.
5. Bring all four corners up to touch in the middle.
6. Slide your forefingers and thumbs into the "pockets" created under the tent.

Now ask a question. Questions with yes or no answers work best, but you can try other questions too and see how well the magical answer applies.

FINDING THE ANSWERS:

1. Choose a character: Magician, Elephant, Orphan, or Soldier.
2. Spell out the word for the character chosen; for each letter, open and close the fortuneteller in alternating directions, revealing different numbers. On the last letter, stop with the fortuneteller open.
3. Choose a number from the four shown.
4. Count up to that number, opening and closing the fortuneteller in alternating directions for each count. On the last number, stop with the fortuneteller open.
5. Choose another number from the four shown.
6. Count again, opening and closing the fortuneteller as above.
7. Choose one more number. This time, open the flap for that number and read the answer to your question!

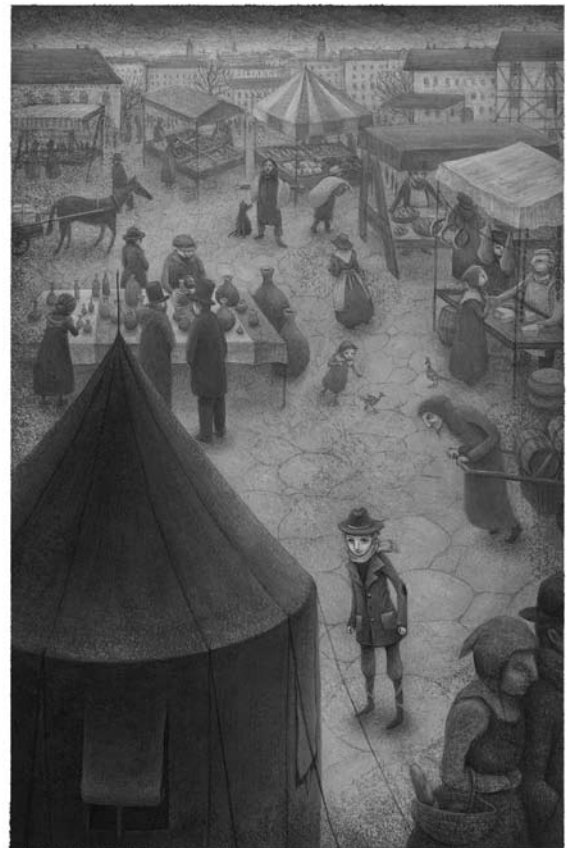


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The Fortuneteller's Tent

(CONTINUED)

1 Things are not at all what they seem to be; oh, no, not at all.

2 Of that I am sure; of that I have no doubt at all.

3 I cannot say. I cannot say because I am afraid that I do not know.

4 The stars are aligning themselves for something even more spectacular.

5 What if? Why not? Could it possibly be?

6 Wait a while . . . you will see.

7 That is surely the truth, at least for now.

8 The impossible is about to happen again.

MAGICIAN

ELEPHANT

SOLDIER

ORPHAN

Portentous Dreams

“I dreamed,” said Adele.

“But how lovely,” said Sister Marie. “And what did you dream of?”

“The elephant.”

“Oh, elephant dreams, yes. I find elephant dreams particularly moving,” said Sister Marie, “and portentous, yes, although I am forced to admit that I myself have yet to dream of an elephant. But I wait and hope. One must wait and hope.”

In many cultures throughout history, people have looked to dreams for meaning. In some times and places, dream interpretation was considered to be a special gift possessed by only a few—the magicians or priests of the land. In other situations, it has been believed that anyone could try working out what dreams mean.

For example, if you dreamed of a boat on an ocean, what might that mean? Would it make a difference if you were on the boat or watching from shore?

Today, there are many books and other resources available that claim to tell exactly what dreams mean. Do some research by examining one of these books or online resources. Do you think they work? Why or why not?

In *The Magician’s Elephant*, Adele repeatedly dreams of the elephant. What does her dream mean? How do you know? Does Adele’s dream come true exactly as she dreamed it? If not, what is different?

Have you had any interesting dreams lately? Write down or draw a picture of your dream on the dream journal page provided. Record what you think it might mean, or look in a dream dictionary to see what it says about your dream.

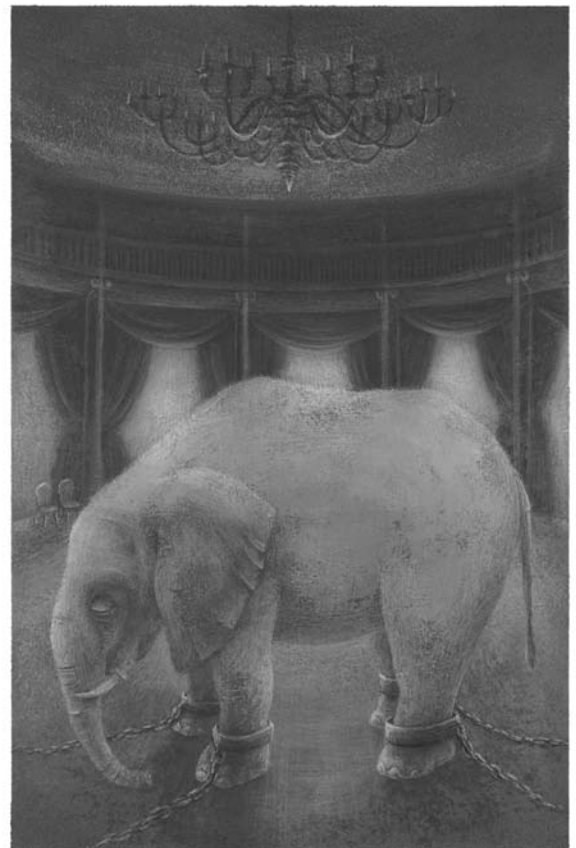
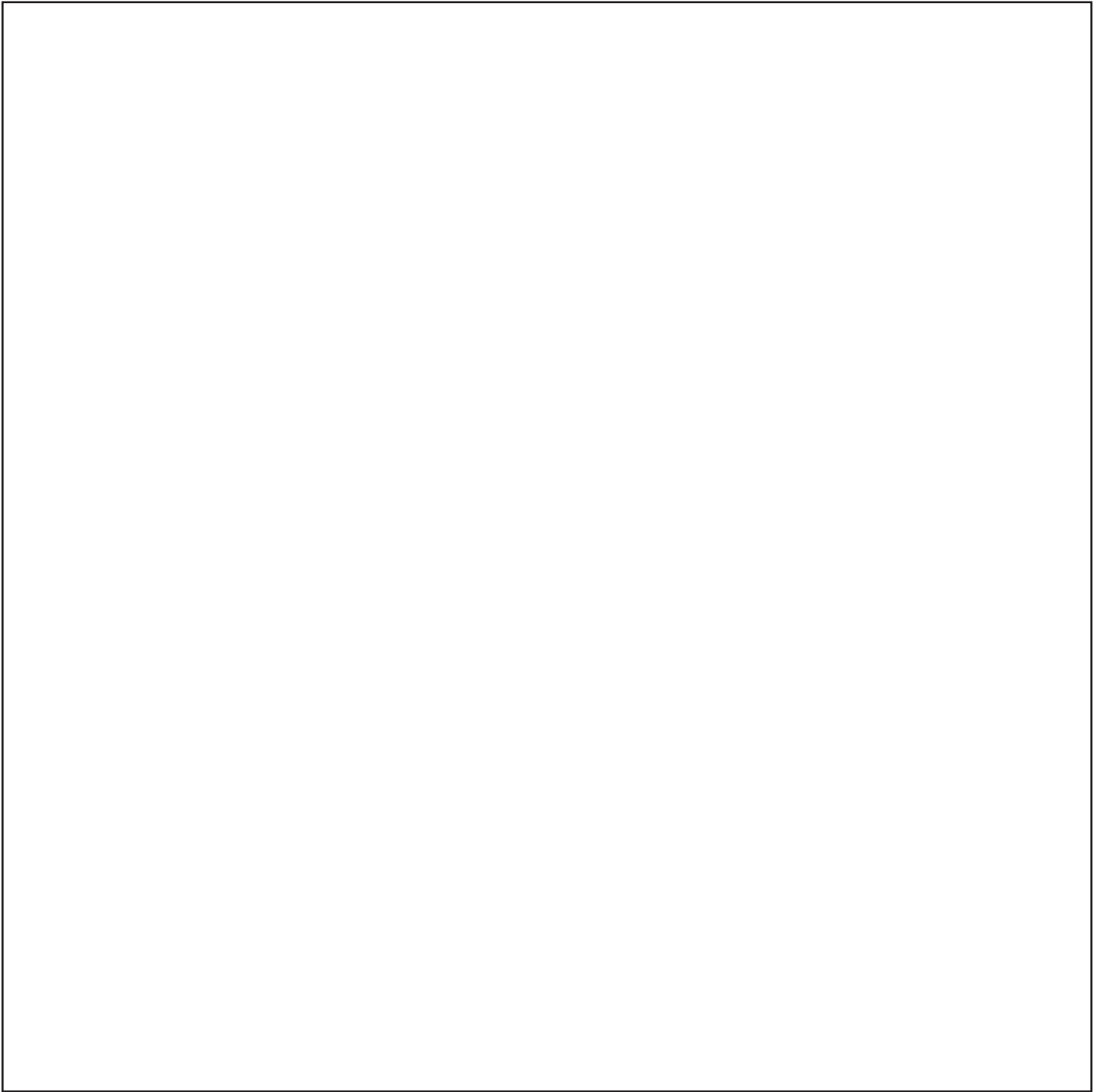


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The story or picture of my dream:



I think my dream might mean _____

Story in a Palm

He let the fortuneteller take his hand. She examined it closely, moving her eyes back and forth and back and forth, as if there were a whole host of very small words inscribed there.

For many ages, fortunetellers have used palmistry, the interpretation of lines and shapes in the hand, to make predictions about people.

If you look closely at your hand, you will notice several creases and lines in the skin of your palm. To those interested in palm reading, each of these lines has acquired a meaning over the years.

The most important lines are said to be:

- the heart line
- the head line
- the life line

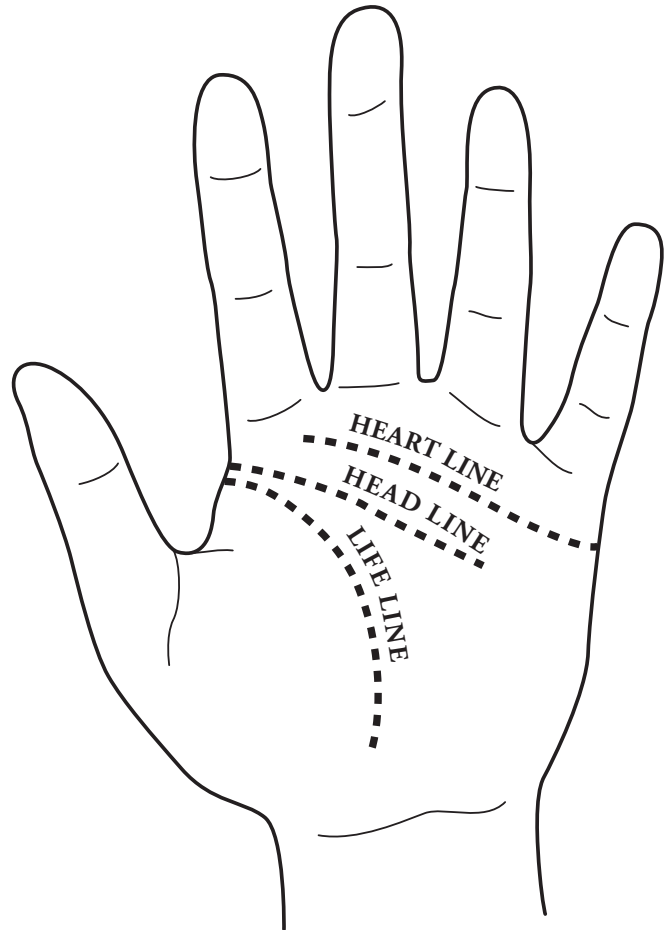
Palmists look at each line and consider its length, depth, direction, and so forth to make determinations.

For instance, some may claim that a long heart line means that a person is very drawn to relationships with others, while a short one may mean that he or she is more independent.

A head line that is straight or deep is thought to mean that the person has a very good memory.

A deep life line, some say, may mean that a person has a lot of energy, and a wavy one may mean that he or she is optimistic.

Look at your hand. Find your heart line, head line, and life line. On the diagram at right, use a pencil or marker to show where each line begins and ends, and how much it curves.



Now circle the characteristics that apply to your palm lines:

Heart line:	Long	Short	Deep / Heavy	Faint / Light	Continuous	Broken
Head line:	Long	Short	Deep / Heavy	Faint / Light	Continuous	Broken
Life line:	Long	Short	Deep / Heavy	Faint / Light	Continuous	Broken

Finally, do some research in a book or on a website about palmistry, and see what your lines might mean! There are other palm lines as well, which you may find out about in your research. Remember, no one is sure what is true, and you might find conflicting information in different sources, but it can be fun to imagine what our palms tell us about our lives.

My heart line is _____, which may mean that I _____.

My head line is _____, which may mean that I _____.

My life line is _____, which may mean that I _____.