Interactive Activity

Preview Activity

* Read the poem written below and have students follow along on their own copy.

‘Life of Illusion’

Friends, let us still rejoice.

O friends, be not sad. 3

It is true the earth is nobody’s possession:

None shall remain upon it!

Feathers of quetzal are torn;

Paintings, they are destroyed;

Flowers, they wither:

Everything goes to His Home!

Only a brief moment, we wander intoxicated

Beside thee, at thy side, O Giver of Life.

‘Ephemeral Life’

We live in a flower-land

Where no one can ever annihilate flower or song;

So do they also endure in the House of the Sun.

Earth is the region of the ephemeral moment.

It will not be thus in the Land of Mystery.

Will there be happiness – will there be friendship there?

Have we come only to know one another on earth?

‘The Poet’s Mission’

I? Who am I?

I live as a fugitive, singer of flowers.

Songs I make,

And butterflies of song.

They bloom in my soul

So that my heart may taste them.

* As a whole class, discuss what this poem may be implying about the Aztec who wrote it.
* Ask these questions
* What is the tone of the poem? (Happy, sad, angry, etc.).
* What are some of the similar words, terms or concepts that are presented throughout the poem?
* What is your favorite line/verse? Why?
* The link provides information on the purpose behind the poem that you can discuss with your class after the group discussion. <http://www.nakedlight.co.uk/pdf/poetry/a-017.pdf>

**RL. 5. 4.** – Students are asked to make assumptions based off the poem written by an Aztec. Due to the language, students many find it difficult to depict what the true meaning behind the piece. As a group, students discuss the different parts and can work together to determine what they believe is the true meaning.