The Touchstones Of Matthew Arnold

John Shepard Eells

Touchstone Method is a term coined by Matthew Arnold, the famous Victorian poet and critic. He introduced the term in his essay "Study of Poetry" to denote short but distinctive passages, selected from the writing of great poets, which he used to determine the excellence of passages or poems which are compared to them. As Arnold puts it, "There can be no more useful help for discovering what poetry belongs to the class of the truly excellent... than to have always in one's mind lines and expressions of the great masters, and to apply them as a touchstone to other poetry." He quotes eleven passages from the works of Shakespeare, Milton, and others. The Touchstones of Matthew Arnold. By John Shepard Eells Jr. No cover image. The Touchstones of Matthew Arnold. By John Shepard Eells Jr. Read preview. Excerpt. On a blank page in the front of Matthew Arnold's pocket diary and almanac for 1880, under the heading "To write-1880," is the entry "Preface to Ward's Poets"; and as late as November...