

■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

Let's introspect!

1. Think and respond with 'YES' or 'NO'.

When you are faced with a very serious problem or some grave danger, what do you experience?

Your feelings	panic	
	wishing you were never born	
	hopelessness	
	helplessness	
	no emotion	
	calmness and composure	
Your reactions	willingness to tackle it	
	break down and cry	
	run away and hide	
	pray to God	
	ask for help	
	build up courage	
	take it as a challenge	

- Write about your feelings and reactions in 4-5 lines.

You may describe your feelings and reactions using other words than those given here.

- Form groups of four. Discuss what you actually feel and do in difficult situations and some of the things you could do and would like to do in those situations.

2. Guess what the following symbolise and match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) a tall mountain | (a) beauty |
| (2) a dark night | (b) freedom |
| (3) a rose | (c) deep distress |
| (4) sunrise | (d) anger |
| (5) a flying bird | (e) strength/firmness |
| (6) thunder | (f) hope |

Invictus

- ◆ What is the poet thankful for?
- ◆ Which lines show that the poet has suffered his hardships bravely?
- ◆ What is meant by the 'place of wrath and fears'?
- ◆ What does the poet have full control over?

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate.
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate :
I am the captain of my soul.

- By William Ernest Henley

- invictus : unconquered
- pit : a large deep hole in the ground
- wrath : anger
- fell clutch : wicked trap
- bludgeonings : violent beating with a club
- winced : jerked with pain
- menace : threat
- looms : hangs overhead



1. Choose the correct option :

- (a) Out of the night that covers me, Black as the Pit from pole of pole
 - (i) There is a pit between two poles which you cannot see at night.
 - (ii) I am in a pit that is covered with a black sheet.
 - (iii) The circumstances are as bad as they can be with nothing to hope for from any corner.
- (b) In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not winced nor cried aloud
 - (i) I fell down and cried aloud.
 - (ii) I have not expressed my grief even when I had to suffer great pains.
 - (iii) I freed myself from a difficult situation and cried.
- (c) Under the bludgeonings of chance, My head is bloody, ...
 - (i) I have suffered many setbacks and losses, for which there was no reason.
 - (ii) I got hurt due to my own faults.
 - (iii) My enemies hit me till I started bleeding.
- (d) And yet the menace of the years, Finds, and shall find, me unafraid
 - (i) My enemies threaten me but cannot find me.
 - (ii) A great bully found me once, but shall not find me in future.
 - (iii) Even though I am growing old, I am not, and shall not be, afraid.
- (e) How charged with punishments the scroll, ...
 - (i) The scroll is very expensive.
 - (ii) I may have to pay for many of my mistakes.
 - (iii) I have to pay money as punishment.
- (f) I am the master of my fate :
 - (i) I take responsibility for everything that happens in my life.
 - (ii) My fate is my master.
 - (iii) I am the master of this world.
- (g) I am the captain of my soul.
 - (i) I am the captain of a team.
 - (ii) My soul is the captain of my team.
 - (iii) My actions are the result of my own feelings.



2. Write the rhyme scheme of the poem.

3. **Read the poem :** 'Where lies the land...' by A. C. Clough.

