

1.3 'Hope' is the thing with feathers –

Warming up!

Chit-Chat

- Do you ever feel nervous?
- Do you ever feel really depressed?
- What makes you nervous or depressed?
- What do you hope for on these occasions?
- Have you hoped for something that you knew was difficult?
- What do you have to do to fulfil your hopes?



(a) marooned on an island



(b) lost in a forest



(c) stranded on the highway

The Only Ray of Hope

Divide the class into groups of 4-6. Each group selects for itself, one of the difficult situations listed below. They imagine themselves to be in that situation and carry on with the rest of the activity.

(a)

A group of passengers are marooned on an island in the middle of the ocean

(b)

A group of pilgrims travelling on foot have lost their way in a thick jungle.

(c)

A team of players from an office have got down at the wrong place on a highway at night. It is a lonely spot.

Allow students to name anything they can think of, without restricting the choices. A few suggestions are : a torch, a whistle, food packets, a bottle of water, plastic/paper bags, newspaper, a knife, rope, matchbox, needle and thread, mobile phones, a stick, a piece of cloth, a basket.

Let each group make a presentation with the help of what they have written.

- **Describe your surroundings** in 4-5 sentences.
- Write the reactions of your companions using **exclamations**.
- Using your imagination, write what is the only ray of hope for you.
- Two members of your group are going out to try to get help. They can take any five things with them. **Write what** they choose, **and why** they choose it.

‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers –

‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

– By Emily Dickinson



- perches : alights, roosts
- Gale : very strong wind
- sore : causing great pain
- abash : make uneasy, make it keep quiet

Think, discuss and answer :

- ♦ What would be the ‘hope’ bird’s food?
Can it live on without that food?

ENGLISH WORKSHOP



1. Match the following.

(A)

- (1) Hope
- (2) Gale / storm
- (3) keep warm
- (4) chilliest land
- (5) a crumb

(B)

- (a) difficulties and problems
- (b) toughest times in life
- (c) a very small bit
- (d) a nest in the tree
- (e) provide comfort
- (f) Bird

2. Use the proper form of the verb in each line.

‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers –
That (perch) in the soul –
And (sing).. the tune without the words –
And never (stop). at all –

- chilliest land :
Here, it means the most difficult circumstances
- Extremity : Here, it means the worst of the situations

3. Read the examples and fill in the blanks in the same pattern.

(a) Examples : • sweet – sweeter – sweetest

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • fast – faster – | • slow – slower – |
| • high – – highest | • low – – lowest |
| • great – – | • bright – – |
| • warm – – | • cold – – |

(b) Examples : • strange – stranger – strangest

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| • brave – – bravest | • fine – – finest |
| • simple – – | • large – – |
| • close – – | • wise – – |

(c) Examples : • pretty – prettier – prettiest (Note the changes in the last letter.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • nasty – – | • hungry – – |
| • angry – – | • naughty – naughtier – naughtiest |

4. Find the phrases/lines in the poem that mean the following :

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| (a) Hope is a light, delicate thing | : |
| (b) Hope offers comfort to your soul | : |
| (c) Hope is not a wordy thought, it is more like a feeling, an emotion | : |
| (d) In the most difficult times, hope offers the greatest comfort | : |
| (e) Hope is not easily defeated | : |
| (f) Hope has given comfort to many people | : |
| (g) Hope lives on in very hard times, even when it gets nothing from you | : |



5. We can relate many of our feelings and experiences to events or things in nature. Which of our feelings or experiences can we relate to the following?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • darkness : | • a storm : |
| • sunrise : | • a light shower : |
| • sunshine : | • earthquake : |
| • a rainbow : | • dawn : |
| • dark clouds : | • dusk (evening) : |
| • a peacock : | • flood : |

6. **Write in a few lines**, about an experience of your own where you scored in your exams much more than you hoped for. What did that experience teach you?

Language Study

7. This poem is an example of **personification**. When we refer to inanimate objects, ideas, emotions as living things, it is an example of personification. Here, 'hope' is portrayed as a little bird. Describe it in your own words.

Find other examples of personification.