

## 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.

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

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.

- **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 chillest 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)               | (B)                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Hope          | (a) difficulties and problems |
| (2) Gale / storm  | (b) toughest times in life    |
| (3) keep warm     | (c) a very small bit          |
| (4) chillest land | (d) a nest in the tree        |
| (5) a crumb       | (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 –

- chillest 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

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

(b) Examples : • strange – stranger – strangest

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| • 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 :

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| (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.