



### ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 What does the word *hope* mean to you? How important is it for us to have hope?
- 2 What do you think are the bad things about being famous?
- 3 Which is your favourite time of day?
- 4 Do you ever feel sad when it gets dark? Why? / Why not?

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson (1830–1886) was an American poet. She wrote around 1,800 poems, although only a few were published in her lifetime. She was a very original poet who experimented with line length, punctuation and images in a way that was very new at the time.

### 1 Read the three poems. As you read, think about these questions.

Which words related to the senses (taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight) are mentioned in the poem? Which sense do you think is the most important to the poet?

### Three poems Emily Dickinson

1

“Hope” is the thing with feathers—  
That **perches** in the soul—  
And sings the tune without the words—

5 And never stops—at all—

And sweetest—in the Wind—is heard—  
And sore must be the storm—  
That could **disturb** the little Bird  
That kept so many warm—

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

2

15 Fame is a bee.  
It has a song—  
It has a **sting**—  
Ah, too, it has a wing.



3

20 Good Morning—Midnight—  
I’m coming Home—  
Day—got tired of Me—  
How could I—of Him?  
Sunshine was a sweet place—

25 I liked to stay—  
But Morning—didn’t want me—now—  
So—Goodnight—Day!  
I can look—can’t I—  
When the East is Red?

30 The Hills—have a way—then—  
That puts the Heart—abroad—  
You—are not so **fair**—Midnight—  
I chose—Day—  
But—please take a little Girl—

35 He **turned away!**

### GLOSSARY

<b>perches</b>	to be in a high position or in a position near the edge of something, or to put something in this position
<b>disturb</b>	upset
<b>chilliest</b>	coldest
<b>in extremity</b>	in the most difficult circumstances
<b>crumb</b>	a very small piece of bread, cake, or biscuit
<b>sting</b>	a small but painful injury made by a very small hole in the skin
<b>fair</b>	attractive
<b>turned away</b>	to move your face so you are not looking at something

**2** Read the poems again and answer the questions.

1 Why do you think the poet compares hope to a bird in the first poem? What is she saying about hope?

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2 Why do you think the poet compares fame to a bee in the second poem?

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.....

3 Who do you think 'he' is in the last line of the third poem?

.....  
.....

4 Which poem do you think sounds best when it's read out loud?

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**VOCABULARY**

**3** Replace the word in *italics* in the sentences with a word from the glossary. Change the form of the word if necessary.

- 1 The village was *located* very high up on the mountain.
- 2 He was *very worried* because he couldn't remember the address.
- 3 The birds were eating the *little bits of bread* near the tables at the café.
- 4 The weather is definitely *not as warm as* yesterday.

**4** Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the box. Change the form of the word if necessary.

fair   in extremity   sting   turn away

- 1 I woke up in a lot of pain – I had been ..... by a wasp!
- 2 The poem talks about Italy as the '..... land where I was born.'
- 3 ....., the people ate anything they could find, just to stay alive.
- 4 At the end of the film the hero ..... and leaves without saying goodbye.

**WRITING**

**5** The second poem talks about fame. You are going to write an essay about what you see as the positive and negative aspects of fame. First, read this example of someone writing about the positive and negative aspects of where they live.

I live in a small town. It's nice because I know everyone there although sometimes I get lovely as most of my friends live in the town. There is a bus service but only until nine pm. I like living in the country – it's healthy and quiet – even though it can be a bit boring. In spite of that, I really like where I live.

Notice how the writer uses the underlined words and expressions to connect their ideas, give reasons and explain contrasts.

Work with a partner. Brainstorm ideas about the good and bad aspects of being famous. Then use those ideas to write an essay of about 120 words. Try and use the underlined words from the text above in your essay.

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**SPEAKING**

**6** Work in a group. You are going to make a presentation about a female writer. Research her life and work and focus on the following aspects in your talk:

- where and when she lived
- what subjects she wrote about
- why she is considered an important writer
- her background, family and friends.

Your talk should last around five minutes.