

. "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" by Emily Dickinson

What does the poet describe as the thing with feathers?

- a. Soul
- b. life
- c. Song
- d. Hope

Answer: d. hope

2. The poet uses the words "gale" and "storm" as metaphors. What might these words represent?

- a. Hard or painful times
- b. pleasant times
- c. Times of bad weather
- d. Times of success and growth

Answer: a. Hard or painful times.

3. What does the word gale mean in line 5?

- a. A bird
- b. A very strong wind
- c. Sunshine
- d. Feeling

Answer: b. A very strong wind.

4. Hope is important and helpful in the times of sorrow, pain, and difficulty.

Which lines from the poem best supports this statement?

- a. Lines 5-8
- b. Lines 11-12
- c. Lines 1-2
- d. Lines 3-4

Answer: a. Lines 5-8.

5. The poet says that hope “sings the tune without the words.” Why might the poet have written that the tune has no words?

- a. To indicate that people who are always hopeful are also often forgetful.
- b. To emphasize that hope does not need to be put into words to be felt.
- c. To suggest that people are usually unable to understand the feeling of hope.
- d. To point out that it is very difficult for people to express whether they feel hopeful or not.

Answer: b. To emphasize that hope does not need to be put into words to be felt.

6. The tone of stanza one is:

- a. hopeful
- b. Sorrowful
- c. Sad
- d. Aloof

Answer: a. hopeful

7. What is the theme of this poem?

- a. People need to work hard in order to maintain hope at all times.
- b. Hope can survive through even the toughest times.
- c. Hope is able to keep people warm even in the coldest, stormiest lands.
- d. Without hope, people would be more sensible and realistic.

Answer: b. Hope can survive through even the toughest times.

Read these lines from the poem:

And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.

What does the word “abash” most nearly mean, based on these lines?

- a. To confuse
- b. To support
- c. To praise
- d. To silence

Answer: d. To silence

9. Read these lines from the poem:

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.

10. What does “it” refer to in the last line?

- a. The little bird
- b. The storm
- c. The chilliest land
- d. The strangest sea

Answer: a. The little bird

11. What is hope compared to?

Hope is compared to a bird. Like a bird that sings from its nest or from the branch of a tree, hope sits in one’s mind and sings a wordless song.

Why is hope-bird’s song endless?

Hope is endless. After every instance of failure, we rise from our own ashes with a renewed hope. It is hope that inspires and strengthens to fight with obstacles in life.

12 What do you understand by the hope-bird's song being wordless?

Like a wordless song, hope has no definition, no shape, no exact places, and no chances of meeting or touching. No one can say when he can win but he hopes to win; no one can say how long he should struggle yet she doesn't stop struggling. Like a wordless song, hope vague but exists.

The poet had heard the song of the hope-bird while she was going through her troublesome days.

13 When does hope come to one's help?

Hope comes to one's help when one is deprived of all hope for the future.

14 Hope gives but never demands. How does the poet explain that?

Hope gives us strength to fight rather than give up. Although it serves us, it never expects us to repay it. It only gives, never takes anything from us other than our disappointments.