



# HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS

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# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

About the Poet

Poem

Analysis of the Poem

Resources to be consulted for further reading:

<https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/emily-dickinson/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers>

# ABOUT THE POET

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_oyZYIO48u4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oyZYIO48u4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzFIZnhmt3k>

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.



Hope is the thing with feathers (line 1)  
That perches on the soul“ (line 2)  
And sings the tune--without the words” (line 3)  
“And never stops at all” (line 4)

*Hope is just like a bird  
it's nest is our heart, self  
Hope doesn't't need to speak  
Hope is always eternally present.*

“AND SWEETEST IN THE GALE IS  
HEARD;” (LINE 5)

*Hope is most welcome in the hardest times;  
In the worst time, it comforts us and cheers us*



“AND SORE MUST BE THE STORM (LINE 6)  
THAT COULD ABASH THE LITTLE BIRD  
(LINE 7)  
THAT KEPT SO MANY WARM”(LINE 8)

*The bad times, conflicts, adversities are all defeated with  
presence of hope.*

*If only possible, they would have thwarted it*

*That which had kept so many people going, inspiring all  
to never to give up*

“I’VE HEARD IT IN THE CHILLEST LAND,”  
(LINE 9)  
“AND ON THE STRANGEST SEA;” (LINE 10)

*Hope exists even in the harshest of places,  
And in the most distant lands  
No person is untouched by hope.  
No place can be without hope*

“YET, NEVER, IN EXTREMITY,” (LINE 11)  
“IT ASKED A CRUMB OF ME.” (LINE 12)

*But hope has never, in the worst of times*

*Required anything from me.*

*Hope only gives us, never getting anything in return.*

# Meanings

**gale** (line 5) = (n.) strong wind storm

*“...and sweetest in the **gale** is heard...”*

**sore** (line 6) = (adj.) painful; distressing

*“...and **sore** must be the storm...”*

**abash** (line 7) = (v.) humble; weaken

*“...that could **abash** the little bird...”*

**strangest** (line 10) = (adj.) most foreign

*“...I’ve heard it...on the **strangest** sea...”*

**extremity** (line 11) = (n.) farthest point; danger

*“...never, in **extremity**, it asked a crumb of me.”*

# Structure and Sound Elements

## Three quatrains

*(1) Hope is the thing with feathers  
(2) That perches in the soul,  
(3) And sings the tune--without the words,  
(4) And never stops at all,*

*(5) And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
(6) And sore must be the storm  
(7) That could abash the little bird  
(8) That kept so many warm.*

*(9) I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
(10) And on the strangest sea;  
(11) Yet, never, in extremity,  
(12) It asked a crumb of me.*

## Rhyme Scheme

A  
B  
C  
B (slant rhyme)

D  
E  
D  
E

F  
G  
G  
G

# LITERARY DEVICES

Alliteration

**Line 3:** *And sings the tune--without the words*

**Line 10:** *And on the strangest sea;*

- Personification = Hope perches, sings, and asks.
- Assonance = sore, storm, and warm. The “o” sound suggests the “long” trying times in life.
- Anaphora: Lines 7 & 8

The poem is in itself an Extended Metaphor



# THEMES

Hope

Survival

Optimism

# CONCLUSION



Dickinson's poem optimistically suggests that the song of hope can be found in everyone; it is always there when it is most needed.

The speaker suggests that no special effort is needed to feel hope; it naturally comes to those who need it most.

# LET US THINK:

- 1) What is Hope symbolic of?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ is the rhyme scheme of last stanza.
- 3) What is the conflict defeated by Hope, being highlighted in this poem

a) Man & Society

b) Man & Self

c) Man & Nature

d) All of the Above

- 4) If Bird is the protagonist, who will be the antagonist?
- 5) Think of a modern analogous situation from today's worlds, where this poem is most aptly applicable.

# SOURCES:

<https://www.slideserve.com/aram/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers>

<https://www.slideshare.net/LucianaViceconti/emily-dickinson-hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers>

<https://vdocuments.net/by-emily-dickinson-hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers.html>

<https://www.litcharts.com/poetry/emily-dickinson/hope-is-the-thing-with-feathers>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzFIZnhmt3k>