

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Story time

What did Daedalus hope for in the story?

What did Icarus hope for?

- Think about hope and how important it is.
- Read the poem '*Hope is the thing with feathers*' by Emily Dickinson. Look up the two words suggested. <https://www.wordsmyth.net>

2. Discussing the poem.

Read the *Questions about the poem*.

- Think carefully about your answers.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided.

3. Writing about hopes

Read the information at the top of *My Hopes*. Think carefully about all the really important things you could hope for your friends and family.

- Record your ideas.
- Write in full, punctuated sentences and use your best handwriting.

Now try this Fun-Time Extra

In some versions of the story of Daedalus and Icarus, Icarus is grown up.

Maybe he had a wife too? Read the poem *Mrs Icarus** by the former Poet Laureate (the senior poet in Britain), Carol Ann Duffy.

- What does Mrs Icarus seem to think of her husband?
- In terms of 'hope', what might Mrs Icarus be hoping for?!

* Warning: This poem contains a word you may find objectionable.

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.

*Emily Dickinson,
1830-1886*

Look up the words 'abash' and 'extremity' in an online or book dictionary

<https://www.wordsmyth.net>

Can you work out what is meant here? (They are not used entirely literally.)

Questions about the poem



1. In the poem, Emily Dickinson describes 'hope' as if it were a bird. Find **three** things in the first verse that show her doing this.

2. Find and copy the lines in the poem that suggest that, in her own life, Emily found hope even in the unlikely and toughest places and situations.

3. In the first verse, Emily Dickinson creates a **half rhyme** with the words *soul* and *all*. We call it 'half rhyme' because the words *nearly* rhyme.

Suggest other words that fully rhyme with *soul*.

Locate an example of full rhyme in the poem.

_____ *and* _____

4. Emily Dickinson says it would have to be a really bad storm that knocked down hope, meaning by *storm* a very difficult situation or experience. What examples could you suggest of tricky situations that a person would need to have hope in?

5. The last lines of the poem say that hope ‘never asked a crumb’ of Emily Dickinson. Does the word *crumb* suggest a lot or a little of something?

6. What do you think the expression ‘never asked a crumb’ means?

7. Do you think it is a good expression to use, given that in the poem Emily Dickinson compares hope to a bird? Explain your answer.



My Hopes

In the poem, Emily Dickinson says hope never stops and that we should never give up hoping for things. What do you hope for? Instead of wishing for things you'd like to have, such as toys or games, think about what really good things you could hope for - e.g. that might happen for your family and your friends.



The form consists of a large rectangular area with a decorative border made of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, red, and grey. Inside this border, there are ten horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for writing.

Mrs Icarus



I am not the first or the last
to stand on a hillock
watching the man she married
prove to the world
that he's a total, utter, absolute, Grade-A pillock.

Carol Ann Duffy

POSSIBLE ANSWERS - Questions about the poem

1. In the poem, Emily Dickinson describes 'hope' as if it were a bird. Find **three** things in the first verse that show her doing this.

The poet mentions feathers, that it 'perches' and also that it 'sings without words'.

2. Find and copy the lines in the poem that suggest that, in her own life, Emily found hope even in the unlikely and toughest places and situations.

'And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -'

'I've heard it in the chillest land -

And on the strangest Sea - '

3. In the first verse, Emily Dickinson creates a **half rhyme** with the words *soul* and *all*. We call it 'half rhyme' because the words *nearly* rhyme.

Suggest other words that fully rhyme with *soul*.

Answers could include *hole, troll, bowl, foal, goal...*

Locate an example of full rhyme in the poem.

heard and bird, storm and warm, sea and me

4. Emily Dickinson says it would have to be a really bad storm that knocked down hope, meaning by *storm* a very difficult situation or experience. What examples could you suggest of tricky situations that a person would need to have hope in?

Answers will vary.

5. The last lines of the poem say that hope 'never asked a crumb' of Emily Dickinson. Does the word *crumb* suggest a lot or a little of something?

The word *crumb* suggests a little of something.

6. What do you think the expression 'never asked a crumb' means?

Answers will vary but could be along the lines of ... hope has given her much but never asks for anything in return.

7. Do you think it is a good expression to use, given that in the poem Emily Dickinson compares hope to a bird? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary but should include an explanation of why they think what they do, e.g. I think that 'never a crumb' is a good expression because birds like to eat crumbs and the poet is saying that hope is a bird.