

# Who is Emily Dickinson?

In this activity, you will learn about why you should be thrilled to read "Hope" and more about the poet who wrote it. You'll also learn some great new words and their synonyms! (In case you forgot, synonyms are two different words that share the same meaning.)

**Directions:** For each word in the word bank below, find its synonym in bold in the article, and write it in the blank below.

When you feel **hopeful**, it's like you're **unstoppable** . . . right? But why should you read a poem about feeling hopeful, especially if it's written by a woman who died more than 100 years ago. This is an **important** question! (In fact, you should always ask yourself, "Why am I reading this?" before you start reading an article or a book.)

The reason to read a poem like "Hope" is that it is a **classic**, which means it is still worth reading years and years after it was written. Plus, it contains themes that are still **relevant** today. Reading a classic poem or story also gives you a chance to travel back in time and learn about a **talented** person and a specific time in history. Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1830. Although she spent much of her life **alone** or with her family, she found great company in books. She even **skimmed** the dictionary for fun! She also wrote more than 1,700 poems to **express** some of the things she was feeling or **contemplating**, such as **love**, nature, friends, religion, and death.

In this poem, Dickinson uses a **wonderful** metaphor to **explore** the meaning of hope. She compares hope to a bird ("the thing with feathers") that "**perches** in the soul" and **chirps** a tune that can be heard even in the heaviest of storms.

So the next time you're feeling **blue** and spot a bird whistling a cheerful **tune**, think about Emily Dickinson's lovely poem "Hope." Who knows, maybe you'll be inspired to write a poem of your own!

<b>Word Bank</b>	
communicate	_____
pertinent	_____
thinking	_____
unbeatable	_____
sad	_____
skilled	_____
optimistic	_____
romance	_____
crucial	_____
isolated	_____
scanned	_____
timeless	_____
sings	_____
examine	_____
melody	_____
nests	_____
terrific	_____