



Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Task 1. Correct 10 mistakes

Emily Dickinson is one of America's greatest poets. Largely unpublished during her lifetime, she now become one of the most widely read female poets.

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in a family well known of educational and political activity. Her father was an orthodox Calvinist who was a lawyer and served a time in Congress. Emily studied at Amherst Academy (1834-47) and a couple of years after finishing her education she began to writing poetry. At the age of 23 Emily withdrew more and more with a secluded life, rarely venturing out into social circles. Emily spent most of her time in her room often composing poetry. Although Emily led a reclusive outer life, she did corresponded with writers such as John Keats, John Ruskin, and Sir Thomas Browne. However although her outer life was one of great simplicity the poetries of Emily Dickinson offers a wealth of spontaneity and creativity.

'If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;'

'Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all;'

Task 2. Change the words in brackets to complete the text.

Unfortunately most of her poems were not _____ (publish) until after her _____ (die), first by her sister and later by Martha Dickinson Bianchi (her niece). Many modern _____ (comment) argue her poems were heavily edited and some things have been lost in _____ (translate). Nevertheless her poems proved to be _____ (success) and some lines have become the best known quotes from poetry. Also Emily is regarded as an _____ (innovate) poet, who has had an impact on modern poets. For example many of Emily's later poems didn't stick to conventional poetic forms. Emily made frequent use of dashes, off rhymes and broken metres.

Task 3. Complete the text with the missing words.

Emily wrote many of her poems _____ a period of religious revival that swept Western Massachusetts _____ the decades of 1840-50. However _____ important element of Emily Dickinson's poetry _____ her ability to transcend the prevailing religious orthodoxy of the present time. Although her poetry makes little reference _____ "formal religion" she was absorbed _____ spiritual concepts especially immortality and the overcoming of death.

*'Because I could not stop for Death –
He kindly stopped for me –*

*The Carriage held but just Ourselves –
And Immortality...'*

Emily did not write _____ articles or poetry _____ specifically _____ religion. However we can see from her poetry she had a great love _____ nature and also an inner love _____ God. In her beautiful poem "I taste a Liquor never brewed." Emily reveals her love of nature, expressing her inner delight she feels _____ a connection to nature. Also it is interesting that although Emily was a well known introvert who spent much time alone, her poems also often express a spontaneous feeling _____ joy. A joy that occurs _____ her other feelings of loneliness.

*"Inebriate of air am I, And debauchee of dew,
Reeling, through endless summer days,*