

## This I Believe

*“Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops at all.”*

*~Emily Dickinson, “Hope” is the Thing with Feathers.*

I hope for many things. I hope I will do well on my next exams. I hope I can study at my dream university. I hope my niece will have a nice baptism, even in lockdown. I hope I'll soon get the motivation to clean my room. We all hope for many things. But I think, one of the strongest things we all hope for, right now, is that we can go back to the nearest form of normal soon. That we can visit our family and friends. That we can go back to school. That we can finally go to the events that had to be postponed. There's so much.

And as Emily Dickinson's poem says, hope is like those pest plants that grow in the garden. One can cut it, but it will always grow again. And getting rid of it is rather difficult or not possible at all.

So, what motivates and lets people hope in these times?

For me, it's writing. Writing gives me the chance to escape, control, and see life from fresh perspectives.

Writing is a good form of escapism. One can drift away into the imaginary worlds one has created on one's own. Of course, reading is a great alternative for that as well. But if there is a story that hasn't been written yet, you can write it yourself.

Writing means you will meet the characters you have always wanted to know.

In these worlds, I can go on adventures. I can live another life for some time, if I want to. I can weave words together to create my own portal to anywhere and visit those places instead of looking out a window, wishing to be a part of it.

When I'm writing, I am able to forget the real world for a few hours. Writing allows my mind to go anywhere I want, without restrictions.

Another great aspect of writing is that one has the complete control over the story. The only world I can control, is the one of my own imagination. This imaginative world can be a world without COVID or a world no one has ever seen before. Your creativity and imagination have no limits.

Writing makes me feel free because I can write things I would be too afraid to say to someone in person. I am brave when it comes to expressing my thoughts on paper. It's so much easier. I can decide when to pause, what to delete, what to keep. But when I'm talking, I have to think too much. And when I write, I can edit. I can be the best version of myself. I love seeing the challenge of writing. The question of how to communicate this moment to others, so they will see what I want to tell them. I love hiding messages in what I am writing. I love knowing that I can decide whether someone will read what I am writing, or if it will forever stay something I am not sharing with anyone.

Through writing, I learn to see things from different perspectives and more analytically. It has often helped me to write about a current issue and then read it as a reader, not the writer. You see things more clearly.

Or writing about something and then thinking about how different characters would approach the problem – you see more ways of solution.

As a writer, one has to be three people at once. Writer, character, and reader. And because of that, it is easier to find different ways to solve a problem.

Putting my thoughts onto paper when they trouble or suffocate me, is like putting down all the things you are trying to hold, onto a table because they would have fallen down, for me.

Writing gives me a feeling that I can change things. Many writers say, they write because they want other people to read all the untold stories. But I write because I have places to discover, journeys to take, and people to meet.

Writing helps me make sense of the world. It helps me expressing myself.

I love creating these worlds and characters and unique situations. And also giving others a world they can flee to – or not. I can simply decide to let this piece of writing stay private.

Who knows, maybe there was a sentence I originally put into this essay but then deleted – you will never be able to read it.

I believe that writing can change so much, not only the people reading it, but also yourself.

Everyone and everything in this world has a story, we just have to figure out how to put it into words.

I believe in writing – in the power of words.