

Hope is a strong, enchanting feeling that turns our lips upward when we have a want or need. It helps us when we're at our knees and lifts our spirits for a brighter future. It could be a nearly impossible hope, such as vacationing on Pluto, or it could be a small want of getting that Nintendo 64 for your birthday. All in all, hope is a fluttering feeling in our hearts that, no matter how humongous that wish is, will always be within us at troublesome times.

Hope comes in all sizes, whether it's that gigantic glowing ball of hope or that miniscule ray of hope. For example, hope filtered into the lives of the Jewish during the Holocaust. Being forced into concentration camps, they had little hope left of escaping. But some brave Jews still had hope - an awesome power over the thin, breaking thread of life that they still had. They were the ones that escaped from the horrible concentration camps with an unimaginable amount of confidence, courage, and most of all, hope. Hope, whether large or tiny, always have made room in all people's hearts.

By impacting people all over the world, hope has made its mark in the lives of ALL people. At our deepest struggles and most desperate wants, hope floods through our bodies when we most need it. In the Greek story, "Odyssey", Odysseus, a young, but hopeful man faces many dangers to return home. Battling evil enchantresses, gigantic sea monsters, and

frightening creatures of all types, Odysseus loses many fellow friends. But, this young man still has a power over all others - hope, a mighty strength within our hearts. With this power, Odysseus overcame death-defying dangers and returned home safely. His wife, Penelope, also had her share of hope. Waiting out the ten year wait of her husband's return was not easy. But, with that golden ray of hope, she kept hundreds of dreadful visitors at bay and dangerous enemies out of her door. Without hope, these courageous Greek characters would not have made it very far.

Giving us the mightiest strength in the world, hope has, and will always, play an important role in our lives. With hope, we can conquer the greatest dangers and fight through our most frightening moments. Hope is for our use and for us to share with others. Surprisingly, these four letters, H-O-P-E, has lifted us up from great misery, and has filled our hearts with a wonderful power.