**9th Form National Poetry Recitation Contest**

**Title of Poem**: Hope is Not Lost

**Poet**: Jessica Millsaps

**Link to poem**: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/hope-is-not-lost/>

**Link to audio recording of the poem**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoc7QEGdob8>

**About the poet**

Jessica was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. She always had a way with being different. When younger, her classmates would hate to write, anything, she loved it. Constantly writing stories, poems, songs, without needing to. Just simply wanting to. Now she writes a lot more and hopes that maybe one day one of her poems will be published.

**About the Poem**

This is a poem that shows us why hope is vital to human survival. Even when everything goes wrong, hope finds a way to keep us moving forward. Sometimes, when we feel despair, it is hard to believe there is hope—but the poet says we must always look for it.

The verse below refers to 9/11—the 11th of September, 2001 when terrorists flew planes into the Pentagon in Washington DC, and the World Trade Center in New York. More than 3000 people died that day, and Americans found it very hard to stay positive and optimistic—but New Yorkers built a memorial to those who died, and vowed to fight terrorism—they did not lose hope.

**Hope is Not Lost**

**By Jessica Millsaps**

When the desperation hit  
When the people cried in the streets  
When everything felt at loss  
Hope stayed, even though fleaing would be easier  
  
When the eyes were full of tears.  
When kids and families were torn apart  
By that last desperate grasp  
Hope tried  
  
When all else gave up  
When all else backed off  
When people lost all they had  
Hope flew  
  
When they cried  
When the world was shocked with desperation and dispair  
When nothing seemed good   
Hope worked  
  
When those four planes crashed  
When the buildings fell  
When the lives were lost  
Hope was there  
  
Hope was only a tiny glimmer  
Hope was still there  
She ran to those who needed her  
She worked to help  
  
When all else failed  
Hope didn't  
She flew through us all  
Letting us know, we still had her  
We just needed to look hard enough  
  
Hope was there  
Hope remembers

**Discussion Guide**

Can you remember a time when you found it hard to hope for the future? What happened?

In your own words, why do you think hope is important for human beings?

Why do you think the poet refers to Hope as she? Do you think that Hope is female, male or no gender? Why?