**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?