**Unit 3: Conflict and Hope**

**Section 3: Sympathy**

**Poem appreciation (page 80)**

2. a. It means ‘when he would rather be swinging on a bough outside’.

b. The poet juxtaposes happy images against the image of the caged bird. The sun shines on the upland slopes, the wind softly stirs through the springing grass, the clear river flows ‘like a stream of glass’, the free bird sings and the first sweet-smelling bud opens its petals, all this happens while the bird in the cage is singing.

c. The poem is titled ‘Sympathy’ because the poet can sympathize with and relate to the bird and its plight.

d.Yes, because the poet feels that the bird’s song is a prayer for freedom.

3. The poem is about freedom as opposed to captivity. The caged bird is captive and longs for freedom.

4. Repetition/refrain is used for asserting a point. Refrains also make the reading of the poem more lyrical.

5. The flower is compared to a chalice. The perfume in the flower is compared to wine in a chalice.

6. Personification.

7. ‘Alas’ and ‘ah me’ are used to express regret and longing.