

“If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking”

By Emily Dickinson

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

Words:

Vain- useless, regret, shame, hopelessness

Aching- hurt, pain

Fainting- weak, helpless, pale

Robin- a small red bird

Unto- into

Questions:

1. Why does Dickinson feel that helping others would make her life useful?
2. In what ways can you help the people and creatures around you?



About Emily Dickinson:

Dickinson was born in 1830 in the United States and lived alone for most of her life while taking care of her parents. She is known for her poetry that tells of complex ideas (such as power and life/death) and bright scenes of nature. She wrote thousands of poems, though many were published after her death in 1886.