

## Introduction

You can listen to a recording of this poem at:  
<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/poems/white-room>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-reading vocabulary activity
- the poem that you can listen to
- a comprehension activity

## Before you listen

### Activity 01

Match the words at the top to their definitions.

a. camel	b. desert	c. feeling
d. knowledge	e. lost	f. Sahara Desert

1. a strong emotion such as love or anger
2. an area, often covered with sand or rocks, where there is very little rain and not many plants
3. large animal with a long neck, that lives in the desert and has one or two humps (= large raised areas of flesh) on its back
4. not knowing where you are
5. the biggest desert in the world, situated in northern Africa
6. understanding of or information about a subject which a person gets by experience or study

## Read the poem

### The White Room

by Irene Soriano Flórez

I am now feeling  
like a lost camel  
in the Sahara Desert.  
I am very young  
and I've got a lot of things  
to learn.

Sometimes  
I think:  
I don't know anything  
I should go to my house  
and begin to study.  
But, then, I think  
Why? A lot of the time  
knowledge flies after studying.  
Will I fly with English  
out of this white room?

**After you read****Activity 02**

Decide on the best answer to the following 3 questions:

Studying makes the poet feel ...

- a. pride in her achievement
- b. pleasant relaxation
- c. apprehension or uncertainty

She compares herself to a camel because ...

- a. camels live in huge empty deserts where it is easy to get lost
- b. camels groan a lot
- c. she wants to ride away very quickly

The whiteness of the room reflects her inner feelings because it suggests ...

- a. cleanliness
- b. solitude
- c. friendliness

**Answers:****Activity 01**

1. c; 2. b; 3. a; 4. e; 5. f; 6. d

**Activity 02**

1. c; 2. a; 3. b

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