



**RAISINA BENGALI SCHOOL ,MANDIR MARG ,NEW DELHI-110001**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**CLASS: X B**

**TEACHER :S MALA**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**Book: First Flight**

**CHAPTER: Two stories about flying**



**His First Flight Summary**

**READ ONLY**

This story is about a family of seagulls. There was a young child in the family who was unable to fly even after several tries. the story highlights the importance of family and friends in one's life. It also gives message that one needs to believe in self to overcome all the hurdles of own life.

#### **The Seagull Family**

The seagull family consists of six seagulls – mother, father, three sons and one daughter. All of them except the youngest son are expert in flying high. His parents have tried several times to teach him how to fly but he is scared to do that and does not want to try anymore. He relies on the food that his parents bring back from their flights.

### **Young Seagull's Fear of Flying**

The youngest son is afraid of flying as he thinks that if he flies, his wings would not support him and he would fall down in the sea below and drown. Even his parents have rebuked him. They even threatened him if he doesn't fly, he would die of hunger, but he does not try.

### **Parents Leave Young Seagull Alone**

After so many failed attempts, his parents leave him alone on the rock without food. They even taunt him for his cowardice. The young seagull looks at his brothers and sisters enjoying swimming, diving in the sea water for fish to feed themselves, but no one comes near him to offer food.

### **Hunger and Heat Increase**

As the time passes, the young seagull could not tolerate the hunger and the heat. He moves closer to the ledge and pretends to fall asleep but nobody takes notice of him. His brothers and sisters have already had hearty breakfast and father seems busy in admiring and cleaning the feathers on his back. The mother looks at him and tries to tempt him with pieces of fish. His begging and crying does not affect her.

### **Young Seagull Dives for Food**

The young seagull was very hungry. He was surprised enough at his mother's ignorance of his pitiful condition. Thus, he dives for food. He begins to fall down with a scream as soon as he dives.

### **Flight Begins**

The young seagull begins to fall in the sea. He is afraid of drowning, so he tries to spread his wings outwards and begins flying. He feels a little dizzy but all his fear vanished (disappeared). He soars slowly downwards and upwards. He could finally fly on his own.

### **Joy of Flight and Reunion of Family**

The seagull becomes so happy and soars higher calling 'ga, ga, ga'. It was really a joyous moment for the whole family; his brothers and sisters along with his parents come near to encourage and cheer him. The young seagull successfully made his first flight.

## **His First Flight**



### **Chapter Highlights** write in notebook

1. Seagull family consists of 6 members.
2. The young seagull is afraid of flying and family has concern of his food and fear of flying.
3. Cajoling (entrap) and provoking him by family.
4. Family leaves him alone at the rock, so he cries because of heat and hunger.
5. No one looks at him except the mothers who tries to tempt him for a piece of fish.
6. Everybody taunts him for his cowardice, so the young seagull dives to catch a fish to feed himself.
7. He tries to spread his wings outwards and begins to fly slowly downwards and upwards.

8. He is not no longer afraid of flying and falling down in the sea. He soars with a joyous scream.
9. Seagull family came near to him and encourage him.
10. He had made his first flight successfully.



Questions and Answers

write in note book

## NCERT Solutions

### Thinking about the Text (Page 36)

**Question 1 :** Why was the young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think all young birds are afraid to make their first flight? Do you think a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first step?

**Answer :** The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was his first flight and he feared of falling and hurting himself. He thought would not support him while flying.

Yes, it is natural that doing something for the first time is a bit challenging and fearful. Similarly, a human baby is also afraid of taking the first step and finds it challenging when he learns to crawl or stand up without support.

**Question 2 :** “The sight of the food maddened him.” What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?

**Answer :** The young seagull was very hungry. It was his hunger that ultimately compelled him to fly. His hunger intensified when he saw his mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet. He cried to her, begging her to get some food. When his mother came towards him with food in her beak, he screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped mid-way. He wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control his hunger any longer, he dived at the food in his mother’s beak. At that moment, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff. Finally, this plunge was followed by the natural reaction of his body, i.e. to fly.

**Question 3 :** “They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly.” Why did the seagull’s father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

**Answer :** Seagull’s parents had tried everything but he was reluctant to fly due to fear of falling down. He looked at his brothers and sister but wouldn’t make any efforts. That’s why the whole family had left him alone and threatened and cajoled him to come but every effort went in vain.

**Question 4 :** Have you ever had a similar experience, where you parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try? Discuss this in pairs or groups.

**Answer :** Yes, I had a similar experience while leaning to ride a bicycle in class VI. In my initial attempts, I fell down every time and developed a fear of cycling which was difficult to overcome.

No amount of provoking and cajoling could let me try it again, but my father encouraged me to overcome the fear and helped me as he was adamant on my learning cycling. He took me on a mound near village and made me sit and asked me to put my hands on the handle and feet on the paddle. It sped down and I enjoyed it without fear which developed my confidence. This, I overcame my fear of cycling and started riding a cycle after a few practice sessions.

**Question 5 :** In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act and a foregone conclusion that it should succeed. In the examples you have given in answer to the previous question, was your success guaranteed, or was it important for you to try, regardless of a possibility of failure?

**Answer :** We face some problems in the initial stage while learning new skills. Due to the fear of failure, we hesitate to perform a task or to do something new. In case of the seagull, his parents cajoled him to fly. In the

example, I have given in the answer of previous question, I was cajoled by my father to learn cycling. So, at that stage, I was to learn cycling as it was very important for me to overcome my fear. Yes, my success was guaranteed because if someone is determined to do something then success is assured. Moreover as said, practice makes a man perfect.

## The Black Aeroplane :

### The Black Aeroplane Summary



READ ONLY

In the story, the narrator was flying to England to enjoy his holiday. He wanted to reach England in time so that he could enjoy and good English breakfast with his family.

#### **The Trip to England**

The narrator was flying his aeroplane at night over France to England. He was eager to meet his family. He was dreaming of his holiday. The stars were shining in the clear sky. Even the city-Paris could be seen down below. He called Paris Control to get instructed about the way. He was instructed to turn 12 degrees West.

#### **Fear of Storm**

Everything was going well before he saw the storm clouds and Paris was about 150 kilometers behind him. It was natural for the narrator to panic. He knew it was not possible to fly up and over those storm clouds. He was confused for a moment.

#### **A Risky but Brave Decision of the Author**

As everything was fearful at the moment, the narrator decided to risk and flew into the storm, but everything went out of control. The compass as well as other instruments stopped working. He was unable to see outside the plane as the plane was jumping and twisting in the air. He tried to contact Paris Control but couldn't. He was lost in the storm.

#### **A Black Aeroplane Appeared**

Suddenly, the narrator saw another black aeroplane in the storm by his side without lights on its wings. It seemed strange to him but he was glad to see another person in the storm.

The pilot of another plane waved at him and signalled to follow so he did that because he did not other option except it.

#### **A Safe Landing**

The narrator flew for half an hour which was quite strange to him as he had fuel only for five or ten minutes. He felt fearful but suddenly he saw two bright lines in front of him. It was a runway. He was able to land safely which gave him a sigh of relief. It was just like a miracle for him.

#### **The Greatest Surprise**

The narrator came out from his plane to thank the pilot of the black aeroplane but he was shocked to see no one there. He went to Control Tower and asked the woman about the plane and the black aeroplane. Hearing his words the woman laughed and said that there was no other plane except his. It was a big surprise to the narrator. He was dumbfounded as he had no explanation for the miracle.



write in notebook

### Thinking about the Text (Page 40)

**Question 1 : “I’ll take the risk”. What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?**

**Answer :** A huge storm was brewing up and the narrator was keen to reach his home to spend his holiday with his family. So, he decided to fly through the storm as he did not want to miss the chance to meet his family at breakfast. Thus, he took the risk even when the visibility was almost zero in the storm.

**Question 2 : Describe the narrator’s experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.**

**Answer :** As the pilot (narrator) entered the storm, his plane started jumping and twisting. He could not see anything outside the plane as it was black. When he looked at compass and other instruments, they had stopped to function due to storm. This fuel tank was almost empty and he could not fly more than ten minutes. Then he saw another black aeroplane by his side and the pilot of the plane signalled him to follow. It was a surprise for the narrator as the other black plane was having no light. He followed him without any choice and landed safely on the runway.

**Question 3 : Why does the narrator say, “I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota....”?**

**Answer :** The narrator describes his experience of flying in the storm as it was old Dakota which was not very big and sophisticated plane and he had very horrific experience flying it. So, he was very happy rather than being sorry after coming out of the plane and took a sigh of relief when it landed safely.

**Question 4 : What made the woman in the control centre look the narrator strangely?**

**Answer :** The woman in the control centre looked at the narrator strangely because the narrator asked her about the black aeroplane and she saw no one except the narrator’s in the sky during the storm. Even the radar showed only the narrator’s plane that night in the sky.

**Question 5 : Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely? Discuss this among yourselves and give reasons for your answer.**

**Answer :** It is very difficult to say about the unknown pilot who helped the narrator. But probably it was the narrator himself that helped himself to overcome the fear in the storm as no other plane was seen in the radar except the narrator’s Dakota plane. In that fearsome situation, he might have been hallucinating. He himself was a good pilot and brave enough who helped himself land safely.



write in note book

## Chapter Highlights

1. The sky was clear with shining stars and the narrator was about to meet his family at breakfast.
2. At 1:30 in the morning, the narrator flew in his Dakota aeroplane and he was instructed by Paris Control to turn 12 degrees West.
3. He was about 150 Kilometers away from Paris. Suddenly the cloud storm approached him. He decided to enter the storm.
4. Due to his willingness to see his family, the narrator took this risky decision but he lost the way in the storm.
5. All the instruments of his plane stopped working.
6. A black aeroplane appeared by the narrator's side in the storm and he was instructed to follow the black plane.
7. Without much fuel, he flew for half an hour and he landed safely on the runway.
8. He went out from his aeroplane to thank the pilot of the black aeroplane, but he got surprised not to find anyone there in the aeroplane.
9. The narrator asked the woman of Control Tower about the black aeroplane, but she laughed and replied in negative about such a plane.
10. It was miracle with no explanation for the narrator which saved his life.

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