

His First Flight (Two Stories About flying)

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Before you read

1. A young seagull is afraid to fly. How does he conquer his fear?

Ans: The young seagull tried again and again and at last conquered his fear.

Thinking about the text

1. Why Was The young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think all young birds are afraid to make their first flight, or are some birds more timid than others? Do you think a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first steps?

Ans: The young seagull was afraid to fly because of the vast sea beneath. He thought his wings would not be able to cross the long way down.

Not all young birds are afraid to make their first flight. Yes, some birds are more timid than others.

It is well known that a human baby also finds it a challenge to make its first steps.

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

Ans: This suggests that the sight of food made him forget everything, even the fear of flying. As he was very hungry he was eager to have food. And this eagerness compelled him to finally fly.

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

Ans: The seagull’s father and mother threatened him and cajoled him to fly because if he did not do so he would have to starve and die. So he must fly.

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

Ans: In fact, I had an experience when my father made me to learn swimming. I was afraid to go to water. I thought I would drown and die. But my father stood by me, caught me and taught me how to paddle. Confidence came to me and I succeeded.

5. In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act, and a foregone conclusions 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?

Ans: No, my success was not guaranteed and it was important for me to try. Father insisted on.

Speaking

We have just read about the first flight of a young seagull. Your teacher will now divide the class into groups. Each group will work on one of the following topics. Prepare a presentation with your group members and then present it to the entire class.

- * Progression of Models of Airplanes.
- * Progression of models of Motor cars.
- * Birds and their Wing Span.
- * Migratory birds – Tracing Their Flights.

Ans: Do yourself in the class.

Comprehension Questions and Answers

Q:- Read the passage carefully and answer the question choosing appropriate options :-

1. The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down – miles down. He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. Even when each of his brothers and his little sister, whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he fails to muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate.

Question :-

1. The young seagull was alone on his ledge because –

- a) He was ill.
- b) He was watching the nest.
- c) He could not fly.
- d) He was taking rest.

Ans: c) He could not fly.

2. He became afraid when he ran forward-

- a) To the brink of the ledge.
- b) To the top of the ledge.
- c) To his brothers and sisters
- d) To his parents.

Ans: a) To the brink of the ledge.

3. He became afraid thinking that –

- a) His wings were strong.
- b) His wings would not support him.
- c) He could not fly.
- d) None of these.

Ans: b) His wings would not support him.

4. His brother and sisters flew away by –

- a) Running to the end.
- b) Walking to the end.
- c) Flapping their wings.
- d) Practicing to fly.

Ans: Flapping their wings.

2. The sun was now ascending the sky, blazing on his ledge that faced the south. He felt the heat because he had not eaten since the previous nightfall.

He stepped slowly out to the brink of the ledge, and standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing, he closed one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. Still, they took no notice of him. He saw his two brothers and his sister lying on the plateau dozing with their heads sunk into their necks. His father was preening the feathers on his white back. Only his mother was looking at him.

Question :-

1. What was it that faced south?

- a) The sun.

- b) The ledge.
- c) The young seagull.
- d) The sky.

Ans: b) The ledge.

2. He felt heat because –

- a) He was hungry.
- b) He was weak.
- c) He was going the sun.
- d) He was flying.

Ans: a) He was hungry.

3. He pretended to be –

- a) Falling asleep.
- b) Trying to fly.
- c) Walking.
- d) Taking rest.

Ans: a) Falling asleep.

4. Who was looking at him?

- a) His father.
- b) His brother.

c) His sister.

d) His mother.

Ans: d) His mother.

3. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach, and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling head long now. He was spring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid.

Questions:-

1. He fell into the space-

a) With courage.

b) With a shout.

c) With a loud scream.

d) With pleasure.

Ans: c) With a loud scream.

2. What was the monstrous terror?

a) That he would die.

b) That he could fly.

c) That he could not fly.

d) That the sea is vast.

Ans: a) That he would die.

3. What did the seagull do then?

- a) He did nothing.
- b) He shouted for help.
- c) He looked for his mother.
- d) He spread his wings outwards without any effort.

Ans: d) He spread his wings outwards without any effort.

4. When the seagull flew for the first time what did he do?

- a) Cried fearfully.
- b) Soared gradually.
- c) Cried joyfully.
- d) Called his parents.

Ans: b) Soared gradually.

Short Answers Type of Questions

1. Why Was The young seagull afraid of flying?

Ans: The young seagull wanted to fly but he was very much afraid of flying. He saw the sea that stretched to a great expanse and felt that his wings never support him. He failed to muster up courage like his brothers and sisters. He thought that he would fall and die.

2. What did the young seagull watch the day before?

Ans: The day before the young seagull watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sisters, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish.

3. What did the mother do to make the young seagull fly?

Ans: The mother kept the young seagull hungry. He cried for some food. But he was afraid of flying. His mother screamed back. He kept calling her for food. She picked up a piece of fish and flew across. He leaned out to get nearer her. Almost maddened by hunger he dived at the fish and finally learnt to fly.

4. How did the young seagull feel when he dived for the piece of fish in his mother's beak?

Ans: Maddened by hunger the young seagull dived for the pieces of fish in his mother's beak. With a loud of scream he fell into space. A monstrous fear seized him. But soon he felt his wings spread outwards and he was not falling. He was no longer afraid but he was flying.

5. How did the young seagull land on the green sea?

Ans: The young seagull's parents and his brothers and sister had landed on the green flooring ahead of him. They called him shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the greens sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and tried to get up. But he could not do so because he was weak. His belly touched the sea and sank no further. He was floating.

6. How did the young seagull's family celebrate his first flight?

Ans: The young seagull was afraid of flying. But finally it made his first flight. He landed on the green sea and all his family members gathered around him. They praised him and offered him scraps of dog-fish.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe how the young seagull made his first flight.

Ans: The young seagull was very much afraid of flying. He thought his wings would not support him. His parents, brothers and sisters left him alone. His mother rebuked him and did not give him food. He was very hungry. He was

going to die of hunger. He called his mother for food. His mother took a piece of fish in her beak and flew across him. She came nearer. The young seagull was mad with his hunger. He dived at the fish and fell in to space. A monstrous fear seized him. But soon he found that he was not falling. He flapped his wings and began to fly. He cried in joy. Thus he made his first flight.

2. Describe how the young seagull landed on the green sea and how he was welcomed.

Ans: The young seagull was very much afraid of flying. But finally, he made his first flight successfully. His father flew over him screaming. His brothers and sisters were flying around him curveting and banking and soaring and diving. He also began to dive and soar and curve shrieking shrilly. His parents and brothers and sisters landed on a green flooring ahead of him. They called him. He landed but his legs sank into it. He screamed in fear and tried to get up. But he could not do so because he was weak. But he did not sink any further, he was floating. Thus, he landed on the green sea. All of his family praised him and offered him dog-fish.

The Black Aeroplane

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Ans: The ‘risk’ is flying the old Dakota plane into the strongest.

The narrator took the risk because he wanted to get home and have his breakfast.

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

Ans: The narrator was flying his old Dakota aeroplane at ease. But suddenly black clouds appeared in the sky. He flew straight into the stormy clouds and could see nothing. Suddenly the radio and the compass went dead. He was completely lost in the storm. But he saw another plane that had no lights. The pilot of that plane guided the narrator to the airport. He safely landed but was astonished to see that the plane was gone.

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

Ans: The narrator says that he was not sorry because he lost nothing. His life and his plane were in severe danger but he landed his plane and safely came out of it. One mysterious plane had helped him.

4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

Ans: The narrator asked the woman in the control centre about the there plane that guided him through the storm safely. But no plane was seen in the sky intact. The woman saw only the Dakota in the radar. So such a question made the woman strange.

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

Ans: In fact it is a kind of supernatural thing that appeared before the narrator and helped him to land safely. Because the narrator was in severe danger to his life. The mysterious plane seemed to know everything. And it is only possible for some supernatural power to know the problem and help to overcome it.

Thinking about language

1. Study the sentences given below.

- (a) They looked like black mountains.
- (b) Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black.
- (c) In the black clouds near me, I saw another aeroplane.
- (d) The strange black aeroplanes was there.

The word 'black' in sentences (a) and (c) refers to the very darkest colour. But in (b) and (d) (here) it means without light/with no light. 'Black' has a variety of meaning in different contexts. For example :

- (a) 'I prefer black tea' means 'I prefer tea without milk'.
- (b) 'With increasing pollution the future of the world is black' means 'with increasing pollution the future the world is very depressing without hope'.

Now try to guess the meaning of the word 'black' in the sentences given below. Check the meanings in the dictionary and find out whether you have guessed right.

- 1. Go and have a bath; your hands and face are absolutely black. _____
- 2. The taxi-driver gave Ratan a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green. _____
- 3. The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity. _____
- 4. Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy. _____

5. Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in black. ———

6. Village had beaten the criminal black and blue. ——

Ans: 1. black in colour; dirty.

2. Angry look.

3. The most heinous crime.

4. Comedy with a tragic elements or basic pessimism.

5. Unlawful selling of goods especially for the purpose of making maximum profit.

6. Black and blue means covered with bruises.

2. Look at these sentences taken from the lesson you have just read:

(a) I was flying old Dakota aeroplane.

(b) The young seagull had been afraid to fly with them. In the first sentence the author was controlling an aircraft in the air. Another example is :

Children are flying kites. In the second sentence the seagull was afraid to move through the air, using its wings.

Match the phrases Given under Column A with their meanings given under Column B.

A	B
1. Fly a flag	-move quickly /suddenly.
2. Fly into rages	– Be successful.
3. Fly along	– Display a flag on a long people.

4. Fly high	– Escape from a place.
5. Fly the coop	– Become suddenly very angry.

Ans: 1. Fly a flag – Display a flag on a long pole.

2. Fly into rage- Become suddenly very angry.

3. Fly along – Move quickly, suddenly.

4. Fly high – Be successful.

5. Fly the coop – Escape from a place.

3. We know that the word ‘fly’s (of birds/insects) means to move through air using wings. Tick the words which have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Swoop	flit	paddle	Flutter
Ascend	float	ride	skim
Sink	dart	hover	glide
Descend	soar	shoot	spring
Stay	fail	sail	flap

Ans: The following are the words that have same or nearly meaning of ‘move through air using wings’.

Swoop	flit	flutter	ascend
Hover	glide	soar	sail
Flap			

Writing

Have you ever been alone or away from home during a thunderstorm? Narrate your experience in a paragraph.

Caught in a Thunderstorm

Last year I went to my uncle's house during summer vacation. I had a nice time enjoying natural beauty there. In the afternoons I played with the village boys in the open. One day as we all were playing the sky suddenly grew dark. There was lightning accompanied by a storm. We were terror-stricken. We ran fast. After an hour of heavy shower the thunderstorm ceased.

Comprehension Questions and Answers :

Q:- Read the passage carefully and answer the question by choosing the appropriate options given below:-

1. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch: one thirty in the morning.

Question :-

1. What indicates that the weather was good?

- a) Shining stars.
- b) Rising moon.
- c) Cloudless sky.
- d) All these.

Ans: d) All these.

2. He was flying –

- a) To France.
- b) Back to England.
- c) Over England.
- d) From France.

Ans: b) Back to England.

3. What was he dreaming –

- a) Of landing.
- b) Of flying smoothly.
- c) Of holiday with his family.
- d) To be with his family.

Ans: c) Of holiday with his family.

4. In his plane he was –

- a) Alone.
- b) With his family.
- c) With a co-pilot.
- d) With his friend

Ans: a) Alone.

2. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes : the compass was turning

round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.

“Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?”

Question :-

1. The pilot could not see anything outside because –

- a) Of thick clouds.
- b) Of storm.
- c) Everything was suddenly black.
- d) Of heavy rainfall.

Ans: c) Everything was suddenly black.

2. The pilot looked at the compass-

- a) To know his position.
- b) To see the direction.
- c) To measure the clouds.
- d) To see the direction of the clouds.

Ans: a) To know his position.

3. The compass turned round and round means-

- a) It was busy working.
- b) It would work.
- c) It was dead.

d) It would never work.

Ans: c) It was dead.

4. The word 'twisted' means-

a) Jumped.

b) Bent.

c) Moved up.

d) Moved right and left.

Ans: d) Moved right and left.

3. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere.

I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say "Thank you."

Question

1. When did the author see a run way?

a) When he saw the control tower.

b) When he saw the black aeroplane landing.

c) When he came out of the clouds.

d) When there were lights.

Ans: c) When he came out of the clouds.

2. What did the author do when he saw the airport?

- a) He shouted with joy.
- b) He was looking for the black plane.
- c) He landed.
- d) Looked at the sky.

Ans: c) He landed.

3. What did he do after landing?

- a) He went to the control centre.
- b) He searched the other pilot.
- c) He met a woman.
- d) He asked the woman about the black aeroplane.

Ans: a) He went to the control centre.

4. 'Suddenly' means-

- a) Instantly.
- b) At once.
- c) At that moment.
- d) All in a sudden.

Ans: d) All in a sudden.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What was the author thinking as he was flying over France to England?

Ans: The author was flying his old Dakota over France to England. The sky was cloudless. He was thinking of his holiday and his being with the family. He also thought of a good English breakfast at home.

2. What happened when the author turned west towards England?

Ans: The author turned twelve degrees west towards England and he saw storm clouds that looked like black mountains. They were huge and stood in front of him across the sky. He could not fly over them because he did not have enough fuel.

3. How did the author feel when he was inside the clouds?

Ans: When the author was inside the clouds he could see nothing outside because everything became black. His plane jumped and twisted in the air. The compass and all the other instruments were dead. He was completely helpless. He was lost in the storm.

4. What happened when the author was lost in the storm?

Ans: As soon as the author was lost in the storm he saw another plane near him. It had no lights. But he could see the pilot who lifted one hand and waved and asked to follow him.

5. What did the author do after safe landing?

Ans: Finally, the author succeeded to land his plane safely in an airport. He walked to the control center. There he asked a woman where he was and who the other pilot was. He wanted to thank the pilot.

6. What was the reply of the woman in the control centre?

Ans: The woman in the control centre was extremely astonished at the words of the author. She clearly said that there was no other plane up in that storm. The author's plane was the only one seen on the radar.

Long Answer Type Question

1. Briefly describe the author's journey in his Dakota.

Ans: On a clear night the author was flying his old Dakota over France back to England. Suddenly black stormy clouds appeared before him. He was lost as he flew into the storm. He could see nothing outside. Suddenly he saw another plane. The pilot came into his aid. He asked the author to follow him.

After half-an-hour the author came out of the clouds and safely landed. But he was strangely surprised to see that the other plane was gone. The woman in the control center said that there was no other plane in the storm.

2. How did the author succeed to come out safely from the black clouds?

Ans: The pilot of the other plane came into the author's aid. He asked the author to follow him. The author followed the plane in the storm. After half an hour the strange plane was still in front of the author's plane in the clouds. Then it started to go down and the author followed him. Suddenly the author came out of the clouds. He saw an airport and landed safely.