

## **CHAPTER 3 - HIS FIRST FLIGHT**

### **Questions and Answers**

Q1. 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 timider than others? 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 that his wings would not support him while flying. Yes, it is natural that doing something for the first time is a bit challenging and fearful. All birds must be afraid to make their first flight. 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.'

Q2. "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 this hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly. Its hunger intensified when it saw its mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet. It cried to her, begging her to get some food. When its mother came towards it with food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. It wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger any longer, it dived at the food in its 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 its body, to fly.

Q3. "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

Answer:

The 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 effort. That's why the whole family had left him alone and threatened and cajoled him to come but every effort went in vain.

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

**Question 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 the 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.

- (a) What was the young seagull afraid of?
- (b) What did the young seagull feel about his wings?
- (c) Pick out the word from the passage that means the same as 'the verge'.
- (d) Pick out the word from the passage which means 'a narrow flat piece of rock that sticks out from a cliff'.

**Answer:**

- (a) The young seagull was afraid of flying over the sea.
- (b) The young seagull felt that his wings would never support him.
- (c) The word is 'brink'.
- (d) The word is 'ledge'.

**Question 2.**

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 headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards, He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curving and banking and soaring and diving.

- (a) What did the young seagull feel the next moment?
- (b) What did the young seagull's mother do?
- (c) Find out the word from the passage that means the same as 'fly high in the air'.
- (d) Find out from the passage a word that means 'to grab'.

**Answer:**

- (a) The next moment the young seagull felt his wings spread outwards.
- (b) The young seagull's mother swooped past him and made a loud noise with her wings.
- (c) The word is 'soaring'.
- (d) The word is 'seized'.

## THE BLACK AEROPLANE

### Questions and Answers

Q1. "I'll take the risk". What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?

Answer:

A huge storm was brewing up and the author 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.

Q2. Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.

Answer:

As the pilot (author) 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 the compass and other instruments they had stopped functioning due to the storm. It was a terrible and fearsome experience for him. The 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.

Q3. Why does the narrator say, "I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota..."?

Answer:

He was delighted to land safely out of dark stormy clouds, therefore, he was not sorry to walk away from his plane. Though he felt bad that he could not thank his guide, his mentor who saved him from frightening situations, he wanted to forget the whole experience and leave the place immediately as he was eager to meet his family.

Q4. What made the woman in the Control Centre look at the narrator strangely?

Answer:

The woman in the Control Centre looked at the narrator strangely because the narrator asked him about the black aeroplane and she saw no one except the narrator in the sky during the storm. Even the radar showed only the narrator's plane that night in the sky.

**Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 1.**

Paris was about 150 kilometres behind me when I saw the clouds. Storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains 'standing in front of me across the sky-1 knew I could not fly up and over them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. CBSE 2016

- (a) What happened when the pilot was about 150 kilometres away from Paris?
- (b) What does the author compare the clouds to?
- (c) Find out the word similar in meaning as sufficient.
- (d) The word 'elephantine' is similar in meaning to the word .....

**Answer:**

- (a) The pilot saw storm clouds when he was about 150 kilometres away from Paris.
- (b) The author compares the clouds to a black mountain.
- (c) The word is 'enough'.
- (d) The word is 'huge'.

**Question 2.**

"He knows that I am lost", I thought 'He's trying to help me.

He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child.

After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now, there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

- (a) Why was the pilot happy to find his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds?
- (b) Why was the pilot frightened again?
- (c) Find the opposite of 'insufficient' from the passage.
- (d) What does a 'storm' mean?

**Answer:**

- (a) The pilot was happy to find his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds because another pilot was helping him to come out of the storm clouds.
- (b) The pilot felt frightened again because the fuel was not sufficient to reach the destination as it was only enough for the next five or ten minutes.
- (c) Enough.
- (d) A storm is very bad weather with strong winds and rain, thunder and lightning.

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