

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2024-2025 - Notes

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: L-3 Two Stories About Flying

## Part-I

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 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 it was its first flight. It is a well-known fact that doing something for the first time is challenging. Therefore, all young birds must be afraid to make their first flight. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take its first steps.

Q2. "The sight of food maddened him." What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?

Ans. The young seagull was very hungry. It was this hunger that ultimately compelled the little bird to fly. His hunger only intensified when he saw his mother tearing a piece of fish that lay at her feet. He cried to her, begging her to get some food. When his mother came towards it food in her in her beak, he screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. The little bird wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger any longer, he eventually dived at the food that his mother held in between her beak. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. A monstrous terror suddenly seized him and his heart came to a standstill. This was momentary. Subsequently, he felt his wings spread as the wind rushed against his breast feathers, under his stomach and against his wings. He was free of all his apprehensions, and had taken his first flight. Hunger and thirst, had compelled the little bird to finally fly.

Q3. The 'fight or flight response', that is, to stay and face a situation or run from it - is an automatic reaction to an event perceived as stressful or harmful. How would you evaluate the young seagull's response on finding himself off the ledge?

Ans. In the beginning, the seagull was terrified. But the fear was momentary. In the next moment, it started flapping its wings and soared in the sky. It could feel the wings soaring through the air. So, we can infer that the seagull's response was 'fight' because it overcame the terror and flew well.

Q4. It is true that without the help of the members of family, the young seagull could not fly. Elaborate.

Ans. In the beginning of the story 'His first flight', the young seagull had a great fear of flying. His parents tried their best to encourage him for flying but all in vain. They even threatened him that he would die of hunger. But he was not confident to fly. At last his parents, brothers and sisters flew away, leaving him alone on the ledge. Staying on the ledge for 24 hours, he became very hungry. So, he tried to call out his mother. She took a piece of fish into her beak and came towards him. But when she



reached near, she stopped at a little distance. In order to catch the piece of fish, he dived without thinking about the result and fell downwards. But the next moment, he could feel his wings spread outwards and he started flying. Thus, his mother helped him to fly. So, it is very evident that without the help of members of his family, the young seagull would not be able to fly.

## PART- 2

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

Ans. As the narrator flew into the storm, everything went black. According to him, it was impossible to see anything outside the plane. It jumped and twisted in the air. when he looked at his compass, he saw that it was turning round and round. It was dead. Along with it the other instruments, including the radio, were also dead. suddenly, he saw another aeroplane. Its pilot waved at him ,asking him to follow. He was glad to find a helper. He was using his last fuel tank and there was only enough fuel left to fly for five or ten minutes. Then ,the other pilot started going down and he followed. He suddenly came out of the clouds and saw a runway, on which he then landed his plane safely.

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

Ans. The narrator was delighted to have reached securely. The narrator's old Dakota was not a very big and sophisticated plane clean and he had a very horrific experience flying it through the black clouds and storm. 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.

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

Ans. Probably, it was the narrator's own self that helped him to the storm. There was no other plane in the storm as the women the control room could see only his plane on the radar. Also, no other plane was flying that night. In his fear, he might have been hallucinating. He was a good pilot, and it might have been his own self that came to his help.

4. Explain the statement : " I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child".

Ans. The pilot of the Dakota, was stuck in the storm. Suddenly, he saw a black plane without lights on its wings, flying near his plane. The pilot signalled him to follow it.The author was glad to see another person, and therefore, accepting the offer to help, followed the black plane like an obedient child.

5. Based on your reading, would you call your narrator a family man? Justify your stance.

Ans 5. The narrator was very excited while he was flying his aeroplane back to England because he wanted to spend his holiday with his family at home. He was determined to be there at the time of breakfast with his family. It was his love for his family, that motivated him to challenge the weather and plunge into the storms.

6. How was the pilot of the Dakota aeroplane rescued?

Ans. The pilot of the Dakota flew his aeroplane into the big dark clouds. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. He found that his compass had ceased to work. He tried to contact the Paris



Control for directions. But he was shocked to find that his radio had also stopped working. Suddenly, the writer saw a black aeroplane near him. He could also see the pilot in it. The pilot waved at the writer gesturing him to follow his aircraft. And this is exactly what he did. It was half an hour since the writer had been following the black aeroplane. He was worried because the fuel in his plane would last only another five to ten minutes. But just then, the black aeroplane started descending, and the writer followed suit. Miraculously, they emerged out of the clouds to see the dotted lights of the runway of an airport. The writer landed his Dakota airplane and was safe and secure.



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