

ENGLISH LITERATURE (FIRST FLIGHT)
CHAPTER 03: TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING
(Textbook Q&A)

PART - I: HIS FIRST FLIGHT

- 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?**
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.
- 2. “The sight of the food maddened him.” What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?**
The young seagull was very hungry and 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, when he jumped he found himself in the space where he could do nothing but to save himself by flying. His body reacted naturally, his wings came out and he started flying.
- 3. “They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly.” Why did the seagull’s father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?**
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 convinced him to come but every effort went in vain.

PART - II: THE BLACK AEROPLANE

- 1. “I’ll take the risk”. What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?**
The risk was to fly through the black storm clouds. The narrator took the risk because he wanted to reach England to have breakfast with his family and moreover, he didn’t have any option to go back to France because of the lack of fuel.
- 2. Describe the narrator’s experience as he flew the Aeroplane into the storm.**
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 outside. The situation got worsened when the aeroplane instruments like compass etc. started malfunctioning due to storm. The narrator was panicking because the fuel tank was almost empty and he could not fly more than ten minutes amidst such situation.

Topic: Two Stories about Flying
Subject: English (First Flight)
Class: X

Fortunately, another black Aeroplane without any lights guided the narrator to come out of the storm and he, finally, landed safely on the runway.

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

The narrator when landed was curious to know about the pilot who guided him during the storm as well as he was quite happy being safe after a horrific travel through storm. So, he left the plane and took a sigh of relief when it landed safely and rushed to inquire about that pilot from the control centre so that he could thank him.

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

The woman in the control centre looked at the narrator strangely because the narrator asked her about the black Aeroplane and she didn't see any aeroplane on the radar except the narrator's Aeroplane.

