

NORTH EX PUBLIC SCHOOL (Session 2020-21)

CLASS - X

SUBJECT - ENGLISH (FIRST FLIGHT)

CHAPTER - 3

TOPIC - TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

WORKSHEET NO. - 6

***Note-** before attempting the question and answers you must check the link given below which will help you understand the chapter thoroughly.

LINK : <https://youtu.be/gnFR5cxAMQ0>

<https://youtu.be/-Gu-vlsdMI0>

The NCERT solutions are given below. You can download the solutions or if you do not have facility to get printout then you can ask your ward to copy the answers in a simple notebook and must learn the question and answers.

NOTES

I. His First Flight

- Seagull family of 6 members.
- The young seagull afraid of flying.
- Family has concern of his food and fear of flying.
- Cajoling and provoking of him by family.
- Family leaves him alone at the rock.
- He cries because of heat and hunger.
- No one looks at him except the mother.
- Temptation by mother for a piece of fish.
- He pretends to sleep but nobody comes to him.
- Everybody taunts him for his cowardice.
- The young seagull dives to catch a fish to feed himself.
- He tries to spread his wings outwards.
- He begins to fly slowly downwards and upwards.

He is now no longer afraid of flying and falling down in the sea. He soars with a joyous scream.

- Seagull family comes near to him and encourages him.

He has made his first flight successful.

II. Black Aeroplane

- Once the writer was in his old Dakota and it was one thirty in the morning, he was flying over France and going to England.
- After informing the Paris Control that he was on his way to England, he turned his plane 12 degree west
- towards England.

He was dreaming of taking breakfast with his family. Suddenly he saw stormy black clouds before him.

- Paris was about 150 km away and he had not enough fuel. So he decided to fly through the storm.

In the middle of the storm, he could not see anything and all his instruments like compass, radio, etc. stopped working.

- Suddenly he saw another aeroplane without lights. Its pilot asked him to follow. After half an hour, he
- came out of the clouds and found a runway. Now he was safe and happy.

- He wanted to thank the pilot who helped him, but no one was there.
- He went to the control room and asked the woman who was on duty about the pilot. The woman looked at
- the writer surprisingly, laughed and told that there was no other plane in the radar. The writer was extremely surprised.

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature

NCERT Solutions

First Flight 3

Two Stories about Flying

Page No: 36 Thinking about 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?

Answer: It is very well said that challenges make you strong and let you face your fear. The young seagull also had a challenge to face, and he was afraid because it was his first flight. I think mostly all young birds must be afraid to make their first flights but exceptions are always there as they might not find it much challenging. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take their first step.

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 this hunger that ultimately compelled and encouraged him to fly. When he saw his mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet, his hunger intensified. He cried and begged her to give him some food. When he saw her coming towards him with food in her beak, he screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. Not being able to resist his hunger any longer, he dived at the food in her 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 seagull's first flight.

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

Answer: The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when he saw his parents, teaching and helping his brothers and sisters to fly, he still could not gather enough courage to make that first flight. That is why his father and mother were scolding and taunting him of his cowardice. They threatened to let him starve on the ledge if he did not fly. They did so because they wanted him to overpower his fear and take his first flight.

The Black Aeroplane

By Fredrick Forsyth

Page No: 40 Thinking about the Text

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

Answer: The risk is to fly through the black storm clouds. The narrator takes the risk because he wanted to reach Paris to celebrate Christmas with his family.

2. Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm. Answer: As he flew into the storm, everything went black. 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 to fly five or ten minutes more. Then, the other pilot started to go down and he followed. He suddenly came out of the clouds and saw the runway, on which he then landed his plane safely.

3. 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, so, he was not sorry to walk away from his plane. He felt bad, when he was no able to thank his guide, who guided and saved him from that frightening situation, but he was so happy after landing that he didn't feel sorry for not being able to thank the guide pilot.

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

Answer: The women in the control room was surprised and looked at him strangely ,when the narrator asked about the other aeroplane and its pilot. She said that no other areoplane was seen on the radar during that time as the storm had already begun.

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

Answer: Probably, it was the narrator’s own self that helped him through the storm. There was no other plane in the storm as the woman at the control centre 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.

Thinking about the Language

1. Try to guess the meanings 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. Villagers had beaten the criminal *black* and blue. _____

Answer: 1. The meaning of ‘black’ in this sentence is that the face and hands are dark with dust and heat.
2. Here, ‘black’ refers to an angry look.
3. Here, ‘blackest’ refers to the darkest and heinous crime against humanity.
4. Here, ‘black’ refers to dark and gloomy comedy.
5. The meaning of ‘black’ in this sentence is that the shopkeepers sell these goods ‘at a higher price’.
6. Here, ‘black’ means that the criminal was beaten badly by the villagers.

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

	A		B

1.	Fly a flag	-	Move quickly/suddenly
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2.	Fly into rage	-	Be successful
3.	Fly along	-	Display a flag on a long pole
4.	Fly high	-	Escape from a place
5.	Fly the coop	-	Become suddenly very angry

Answer:

	A		B
1.	Fly a flag	-	Display a flag on a long pole
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5.	Fly the coop	-	Escape from a place

A. We know that the word 'fly' (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	fall	sail	flap

Answer: The words which have the same or nearly the same meaning as 'fly' are as follows:

swoop, flit, float, dart, soar, hover, sail, skim, glide, flutter

WORKSHEET 6

1. How did the author describe the young seagull's fear of flying and how did he come out of it?
2. While flying his Dakota aeroplane, the narrator was thinking about risk. What type of risk it was and why did he take it?
3. How did the young seagull's family enjoy his first flight?
4. "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?
5. What happened when the young seagull dived at the fish picked up by his mother?
6. Did the young seagull overcome his fear? How did he enjoy his first flight then?
7. What was the young seagull watching from the ledge? What were his family members doing at that time? Describe.
8. All parental acts are for the betterment of the children. Justify this statement by taking points from the lesson- "The First Flight".

9. **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**

His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him, he could not move. That was twenty-four hours ago. Since then nobody had come near him, The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had, in fact, seen his older brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle.

- A. Why were his parents reproaching him?
 - B. Why could the young seagull not move from the ledge.
 - C. Find a word from the extract that means 'to eat'.
 - D. What did the parents do in pride?
10. **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**
- They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish. He had made his first flight.
- A. What was the 'green flooring' on which his brothers and sister had landed?
 - B. How was the young seagull's first experience of the sea?
 - C. Which word in the passage means the same as 'summoning or luring by silent signal'?
 - D. Why was the seagull exhausted?

ANSWERS

1. The young seagull was scared of flying. He felt that his wings would never support him. He failed to muster up the courage to take that plunge which appeared so desperate to him. At last, his mother diverted his focus from fear to food. Maddened by the sight of food, he dived at the fish. Thus, he succeeded to take his first flight.
2. While flying his old Dakota aeroplane, the narrator saw that the sky was full of dark clouds. There was not enough fuel to fly to the north or south. It was impossible to see anything inside the black cloud and his aeroplane might crash. Nevertheless, the narrator took the risk as he wanted to go home and have a big breakfast in England.
3. The young seagull saw his brothers and his sister flying around him curveting, banking, soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself for his dive. His feet sank into the green sea. He was floating on it, and around him, his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.
4. The young seagull was afraid to fly as he thought his wings would not support him. So, he was left alone and hungry on the ledge. His father and mother were beckoning to him to fly shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve. So, they threatened to let him starve because learning the art of flight was very necessary for him.
5. When the young seagull dived at the fish, he fell outwards and downwards with a scream. His heart stood still with fear. Soon his wings spread outwards and he could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. After some time he realised that he had begun to fly.
6. When the young seagull was all alone on the ledge, he was very unhappy there. Young seagull was afraid of heights and did not want to fly. He did not have the confidence to be in the heights of the sky. He even thought that his wings would not support him at all. His brothers, sisters and parents encouraged him to fly. They played many tricks on him. Sometimes they flew away from the ledge and left him alone. He came out and tried to flap his wings, but his fear seized him and again he went inside. His parents threatened him to die of hunger and did not feed him for a few days. Even then he could not gather the courage for flying. But this trick worked and he tried to make his first attempt. Soon he started flying. He was very happy. He was screaming with joy. He was feeling it as a victory over his fear. Now he did not want to remember about his past. He wanted to enjoy heartily, his first flight. He joined his family and landed on the sea water. Thus, he got over his fear of flying.
7. The young seagull was all alone on the ledge. He felt that he was going to starve to death on his ledge. Even his mother was not looking at him. She was tearing a piece of fish with her beak. The sight of food maddened him. He cried at her but she just screamed back mockingly. His brothers and sister had already flown away the day before. Throughout the day, he had watched his parents flying with his siblings. His parents taught them different techniques and made them perfect in the art of flying. They were teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had seen his elder brother catching his first herring. His parents circled around him raising a loud cackle. All the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff. The family members were taunting him for his cowardice act. The young seagull was very nervous and unhappy after watching the family members flying in the sky.

8. The young seagull's family tried every possible method to encourage him to fly. His parents understood that their little one needed a little more motivation to achieve his goal of flying. Initially, they tried to threaten the young seagull in many ways but to no avail. The mother gull realized that the need to fly would make the little one do so. She took a piece of fish and started approaching him. But, the mother stopped just beyond his reach. In his eagerness to get the food, the young bird started diving. That made the young seagull fall from the ledge while trying to get the fish. He was able to fly. Thus, the purpose was served. His mother's efforts made him fly. Even though the young seagull's parents starved him, they were succeeded to make his first flight and proved that 'All parental acts are for the betterment of the children'.

9. a. His parents were reproaching him because he was not ready to fly. His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away.

b. The seagull could not move from the ledge because he was afraid of losing his life. He failed to muster up the courage to make his first flight. So, he stayed on the ledge.

c. 'Devour' means to eat.

d. They were raising a proud cackle when his older brother caught his first herring and devoured it, standing on a rock. They expected the young seagull to make his first flight.

10 a. The green flooring on which the young seagull's brothers and sisters had landed was the green sea.

b. He thought the sea was hard like land. He tried to stand on it but his legs sunk into it.

c. The word 'beckoning' means the same as 'summoning or luring by silent signal'.

d. The seagull dropped his legs to stand on the green sea, but his legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise. This exercise exhausted the seagull.

