

NCERT Solutions for Class 10 English Chapter 3 Two Stories About Flying: I – His First Flight and II – Black Aeroplane

Question 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:

The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was his first flight and he feared that he might fall and hurt himself. He thought that his wings would not support him while he attempts to make his first flight.

Yes, I believe it's quite natural and obvious that doing something for the first time can be fearful and a bit challenging. Certainly, all birds must be afraid to make their first flight.

Likewise, a human baby is also afraid and finds it very challenging when he/she takes his/her first steps or when he/she learns to crawl or walk on his/her own without any support.

Question 2:

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

Answer:

The young seagull failed to muster up courage in order to make his first flight. His family constantly upbraided him to take the plunge, but to no avail. They let him stay on the ledge until he was ready to take the plunge. He was left there for more than twenty four hours and was very hungry by then. Due to this hunger, he was ultimately compelled to fly. Furthermore, his hunger intensified when he saw his mother tearing at a piece of fish that was lying at her feet. He cried desperately begging her to get some food for him. Seeing this, when his mother came towards him with food in her beak, the little seagull screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway and the young seagull wondered why she did not come closer to him. Maddened by hunger, he dived at the food in his mother's beak. At that moment, he fell outwards and downwards into the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff. He was terrified and could feel his heart stood still. But soon enough, he felt his

wings spread outwards and he realized that he could fly like others. Therefore, his hunger overpowered his fear and finally he made his first flight joyfully.

Question 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’s parents were constantly beckoning him and tried everything to make his first flight. However, he was very reluctant to take the plunge due to his fear of falling down from the cliff. He looked at his brothers and sister who flew away, but he was hesitant to make any effort. Due to this reason, his whole family had left him alone on his ledge and threatened and persuaded him to fly, but all efforts went in vain.

Question 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.

Answer:

Yes, I had a similar experience while trying to learn how to ride a bicycle when I was in the fourth standard. Initially, I found it difficult to balance myself and fell down often which developed a fear of cycling in me. Unable to overcome the fear, I gave up cycling, but my parents would always cajole me to try and practise cycling whenever I get time. My father would hold the bicycle from behind to help me balance myself, but whenever he left it, I would lose balance and fall down. Gradually as I practised every day, my cycling skills improved and I could ride it without my father’s support from behind and this also developed my confidence to a great extent. Thus, I overcame my fear of cycling and started riding a cycle confidently when I practiced it on a daily basis. Now, I use a cycle while going to and coming from school every day.

(**Note:** Students can write this answer as per their personal experience.)

Question 5.

In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act, and a foregone conclusion 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?

Answer:

We face some problems in the initial stage while learning new skill. Due to the fear of failure, we hesitate to perform a task or to do something new. In case

of the seagull his parents cajoled him to fly. In the example I have given in the answer of previous question, I was cajoled by my father to learn cycling. So, at that stage, I was to learn cycling as it was very important for me to overcome my fear.

Yes, my success was guaranteed because if someone is determined to do something then success is assured. Moreover as said, practice, makes a man perfect.

II. The Black Aeroplane

Thinking about the Text (Page 40)

Question 1.

“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.

Question 2.

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 compass and other instruments they had stopped to function due to 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.

Question

3.

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

Answer:

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 coaxed him to come but every effort went in vain. **4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?**

Ans: The narrator was concerned about the other pilot who saved his life because after landing he could not see any other plane on the runway. He was worried about the fellow pilot and wanted to express his gratitude but when he asked the woman in the control room, she was surprised because the radar did not show any other plane.

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

Ans: The narrator got worried and anxious when he realized his death was near as the plane was caught in the storm and had enough fuel only for five or ten minutes. It must have been his subconscious that would have guided him through this trouble as there was no other plane in the storm, as told by the woman in the control room. It can also be a strand of his imagination or hallucination that would have shown up because of the panic his brain was in.

Thinking About the Language:

I. 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._____

Ans: The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the face and hands are dark with dust and heat.

2. The taxi driver gave Ratan a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green. _____

Ans: Here, 'black' refers to an angry look.

3. The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity. _____

Ans: Here, 'blackest' refers to the darkest and cruellest crime against humanity.

4. Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy. _____

Ans: Here, 'black' refers to dark and gloomy comedy.

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

Ans: The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the shopkeepers sell the described goods 'at a higher price.'

6. Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue. _____

Ans: Here, 'black' means that the criminal suffered excessive beating at the hands of the villagers.

II. Match the Phrases Given Under Column A With Their Meanings Given Under Column B:

A	B
Fly a flag	Move quickly/suddenly
Fly into rage	Be successful
Fly along	Display a flag on a long pole
Fly high	Escape from a place
Fly the coop	Become suddenly very angry

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A	B
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III. We know That the Word 'Fly' (of Birds/Insects) Means to Move Through the 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

Ans: The words which have the same or nearly the same meaning as 'fly' are swoop, flit, float, dart, soar, hover, sail, skim, glide, and flutter. Swoop means to move quickly down through the air, flit means to move abruptly, float means to hover lightly, dart means to move rapidly, soar means to fly about, hover means to stay at a place in the air, sail means to move smoothly, skim means to move lightly, glide means to have a smooth continuous motion and flutter means to hover.

Writing

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

Ans: Yes, I was once away from home during a thunderstorm. I was at my grandparent's home when the weather suddenly changed, and clouds spread across the sky. My grandparents had to leave because of some emergency, and I was inevitably bound to stay home, alone. I am fond of rain and thunder, so it isn't much of a problem for me. But that night staying alone at home was scary. Even a slight thunder scared me, and I just tossed over in my bed the whole night.

