

STUDY COURSE MATERIAL - 6

ENGLISH

SESSION-2020-21

CLASS- X

TOPIC: CHAPTER – 3 [TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING]

DAY-1

TEACHING MATERIAL: -

His First Flight by Liam O' Flaherty

In part 1 - "His First Flight" written by Liam OH Hearty, the reader comes to know about a young seagull bird who is afraid of flying. It feels that its wings are not strong enough to make it fly. How he overcomes this fear which all of us face while trying a new venture and the story of his successful maiden flight has been beautifully narrated in the lesson.



The story by "Liam O' Flaherty" is an account of a young bird that is afraid to fly for the first time. He believes that his wings would not support him. Despite his younger siblings flying fearlessly with much shorter wings, he could not gather the courage to do the same. He was punished to stay hungry if he did not try. Thus, it was his mother that compelled him to fly by using food as a trap. The lesson reflects how one hesitates to take the first step and that fear is all in the mind. One should trust one's abilities because "the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself".

TEACHING MATERIAL: -

Word Meanings

1. **Seagull-**A bird that lives near the sea and has short legs, long wings, and white and grey feathers
2. **Ledge-** A narrow horizontal shelf projecting from a wall (or here) a cliff
3. **Brink-** The extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body of water
4. **Expanse-** A wide continuous area of something
5. **Flapped-** (of a bird) move (its wings) up and down when flying or preparing to fly
6. **Muster-** Gather
7. **Plunge-** Jump or dive
8. **Shrilly-** With a high pitched and piercing voice or sound
9. **Upbraiding-** Scold
10. **Derisively-** In a manner expressing contempt or ridicule.
11. **Plaintively-** Sad
12. **Uttered-** Make a sound with one's voice
13. **Halted-** Topped

TEACHING MATERIAL: -

Question – 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 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 his first flight. He doubted that his wings would not be able to support him. We are well aware that “Journey to a thousand miles begins with a single step” and it is very difficult to take that first step. Thus, I think all birds must be hesitating before taking their first flight, some more than others. Yes, just like young birds, human babies also hesitate while taking their first step.

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

Ans. On not being able to gather courage to fly and acting like a coward, the young seagull’s family left him alone. As a result, he was starving since he could not fly to get his own food. When he saw his mother coming near him with fish, he got excited and dived straight at the fish, forgetting for a moment that he was afraid of flying. Thus, he got so maddened by the sight of food because he was starving, which compelled him to take his first flight.

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

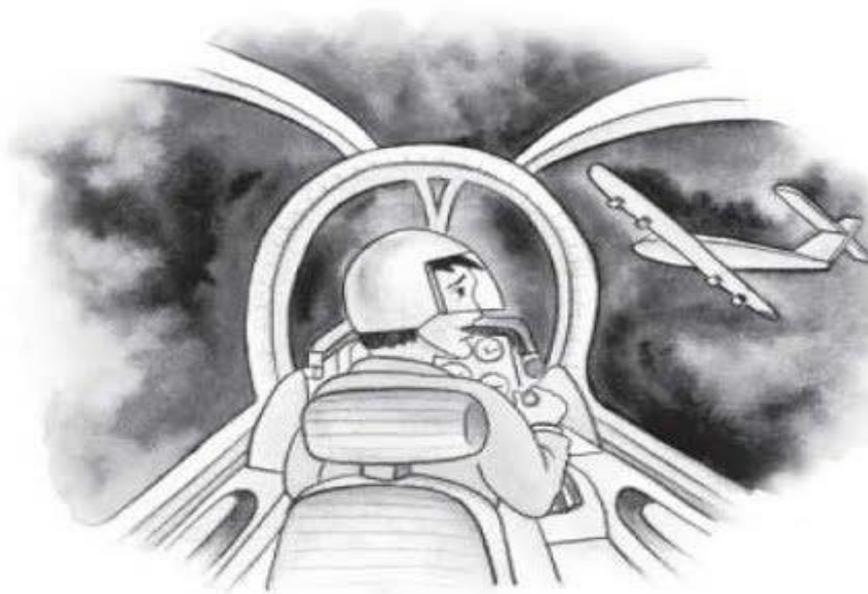
Ans. Unlike his younger siblings, the poor seagull could not gather enough courage to take his first flight. Thus, his parents taunted him for being a coward. They even threatened it to let it starve if he did not try. They thought hunger would make him fly looking for his food. They did all of this because they wanted him to fly.

TEACHING MATERIAL: -

Part – 2 “Black Aeroplane” Written by Frederick Forsyth

In part 2- “Black Aeroplane” written by Frederick Forsyth, the student gets to know about a pilot who is on his flight back home to England. The story narrates the incident that happens on the way and how he escapes death miraculously.

Summary



The story “Black Aeroplane” is about a pilot who feels happy and contented to fly over a city that is sleeping (at the night time). He is flying from Paris to London. While taking his flight, he dreams about the long holiday with his family. He also fantasizes about the scrumptious breakfast he would have upon landing. As soon as he crosses Paris, he gets a look of the dark clouds that were a sign of the upcoming storm. The right decision would have been to turn back to Paris for the sake of safety. But he being overshadowed by his dreams and not wanting to delay them, risks the life of his passengers and heads straight into the storm. Everything gets dark, he is unable to see, all his direction instruments stopped functioning and he lost control of the plane. When all hope was lost, he saw another plane whose pilot was more than willing to rescue them. The author was panicking as there was very less amount of fuel left. The anonymous pilot guided them out of the storm and disappeared as soon as they saw light. Upon landing, when he asks the lady in the control room about the other pilot, he is left in shock when she says that his was the only plane in the sky.

Word Meanings

1. **Countryside** - rural side
2. **Immediately** - at once
3. **Twisted** - moved sideways
4. **Strange** - unusual or surprising
5. **Obedient** - one who is ready to follow order or request
6. **Frightened** - afraid
7. **landed** - came down

DAY-5

TEACHING MATERIAL: -

Questions and Answers

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

Ans. The "risk" here refers to not doing the right thing, which is flying back to Paris when he came to know about the storm. Despite being aware of the bad weather, the pilot headed straight into the storm and risked the lives of his fellow passengers. The pilot's decision making was clouded by his wish to meet his family. He so desperately wanted to be with his family and have that English breakfast he had been dreaming of all day, that he took the risk of not going back.

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

Ans. The narrator was frightened as he lost control of the plane. He felt helpless as the compass and other instruments had stopped working. Nothing outside the aeroplane was visible when suddenly in the midst of nowhere, an unknown plane was visible and the pilot was eager to help him. The narrator was panicking because there was very less fuel left but somehow, he managed to escape the storm with the help of the strange pilot who he could not thank.

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

Ans. The narrator had landed at an unknown place as his compass and radar had stopped functioning in the storm. He was not scared to leave the plane unattended and go to the control centre to inquire about the mysterious plane which had helped him out of the storm.

Q4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

Ans. The woman in the control centre looked at the narrator strangely when he asked about the other pilot that helped him escape the storm. This is because there was no other plane in the sky during such bad weather.

Q5. Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely? Discuss this among yourselves and give reasons for your answer.

Ans. It was the pilot's own conscience which helped him out of the storm. There was no other plane out on that stormy night. So, probably, he was hallucinating. It was his own capability as a pilot which led him out of that black cloud.