

Unit 3

TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

Part I - His First Flight

GIST

The story is about a young seagull who is afraid to fly. He observes all his siblings take their first flight but he cannot get himself to take the plunge. He feels that his wings will never support him to fly into the sky and so he hesitates each time he runs to the brink of the ledge. However, his mother's ingenuity empowers him to soar into the boundless skies with the vast expanse of the sea stretched down beneath him. The lesson explicitly explains his fears and doubts initially and his exhilarated feelings, as he finally soars into the skies with his family beside him.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TEXT

1. 'He stepped slowly out to the brink of the ledge, and standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing; he closed one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. Still they took no notice of him.'
- (a) What did the young seagull do?
- (b) What was the seagull afraid of?
- (c) Why did he close his eyes one at a time?
- (d) What could his brothers and sister do which he was not able to?

Answers

- (a) The young seagull wanted to catch the attention of the others. So he pretended to fall asleep on the brink of the ledge
 - (b) The seagull was afraid to fly.
 - (c) He was pretending to fall asleep.
 - (d) They could fly but he was not able to.
2. His father and mother had come around him calling him shrilly, upbraiding him, and threatening to let him starve on the ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him, he could not move.
- (a) How did his parents try to make him fly?
 - (b) What was the effect of their efforts?
 - (c) What does the passage convey about the young seagull?
 - (d) How was the young seagull threatened by his parents initially when he did not fly?

Answers

- (a) First, they invited him encouragingly. Then scolded and threatened to leave him alone to starve unless he flew away.
- (b) All their efforts failed but he did not fly.
- (c) He was a coward.
- (d) First his parents encouraged him to fly but later on, they even threatened to let him starve if he did not fly.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 -40 Words)

- 1. Describe the young seagull's expression when he saw his mother with food.
- 2. How did the young seagull and his family celebrate his first flight?

Answers

- 1. The young seagull uttered a joyful scream because he thought that his mother was bringing food for him. He tried to come nearer to her as she flew across.
- 2. When the young seagull started flying and got over his fear, his family screamed around him out of joy. They praised him and offered him scraps of dog-fish out of delight as he made a successful attempt

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100 - 150 Words)

1. How does the author describe the young Seagull's fear of flying?
2. Do you think hunger was a good motivation for the young Seagull in his flight?

Answers

1. The young Seagull was afraid of flying though he wanted very much to fly. When he flapped his wings he became afraid. The sea stretched down beneath. He felt certain that his wings would never support him. So he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole. He could not get himself to fly like his siblings.
2. The young seagull was greatly afraid of flying --- did not dare to come out and fly --- had no self-confidence - Parents, brothers and sister decided to leave him alone – left for twenty four hours --- no food to eat --- very hungry --- parents rebuked --- would die of hunger --- getting mad with hunger --- mother bought a piece of fish --- offered him --- but was not able to catch it - called out to her – but she did not come any closer - so he dived for it as he was hungry --- fell and started going downwards --- next moment wings spread outwards --- wind rushed through him --- started flying high --- screamed with joy as he was finally flying --- thus made his maiden flight.

UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 -40 Words)

1. Why did the young seagull feel very miserable on the ledge?
2. How did young seagull's parents try to make him fly?
3. Young seagull tried to fly but he could not. Why was he afraid to fly?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100 - 150 Words)

1. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull terrified by the strange exercise?
Hints - The seagull didn't have the courage to fly. Hence, he used to make excuses for not flying. He felt certain that his wings were too weak to support him – thought they were longer than those of his siblings- He had no courage to flap his wings and try- failed to muster up the courage to take the plunge when he looked down at the vast expanse of the sea.

Unit 3

TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

Part II – Black Aero plane

GIST

The Black Aero plane is about a pilot who is flying an old Dakota aeroplane and is happy and to be able to be home with his family in time for breakfast. He is flying from Paris to London. But suddenly he sees some huge black storm clouds that look like black mountains in front of him. He does not have enough fuel to go around the clouds. He takes the risk and flies right into it. Suddenly it is pitch dark and impossible to see anything. The instruments stop working and he has lost contact with Paris Control. Very soon he sees another black aero plane near him and the pilot motions for him to follow and leads the way. Soon he comes out of the clouds and sees two long straight lines of lights in front of him and that was a Runway! He looks back to thank his friend but cannot see the other plane anywhere. After landing he asks the lady at the Control room about the other plane, but she's surprised and says that there were no other plane in the skies that night, and his was the only plane flying in the storm. The pilot is puzzled! Who could it have been he wonders.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TEXT

1. I knew I could not fly up and over them, and I didn't have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. "I ought to go back to Paris." I thought, but I wanted to get home.
 - a) What does 'them' in the first sentence refer to?
 - b) Why could he not fly over on either side of storm clouds?
 - c) Why did he not go back to Paris?
 - d) Which country was the pilot of the plane flying towards?

Answers

- a) 'Them' means the big black clouds
 - b) There was not enough fuel left in the Dakota – aero plane for him to fly around the clouds
 - c) He wanted to get home and enjoy breakfast with his family
 - d) The Pilot was flying towards England.
2. He turned his aero plane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aero plane like an obedient child.
 - a) Where was the pilot at this time?
 - b) Who does 'He' refer to in the first sentence?

- c) Why did 'He' of the black aero plane bring his plane in front of the Dakota aero plane?
- d) Why did the pilot of the Dakota follow him like an obedient child?

Answers

- a) The pilot was inside the black storm cloud
- b) The pilot of the Black aero plane
- c) The pilot was trying to guide the author out of the storm clouds by asking him to follow him.
- d) He was lost and all his instruments had stopped working. He wanted to find a way out of the storm/
He wanted to get out of the storm safely.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 -40 Words)

- 1. What did the narrator feel inside the clouds?
- 2. Why was the woman in the control room shocked when the narrator asked her about another aero plane?

Answer:

- 1. When the narrator entered the clouds, it became impossible to see outside the aero plane. The aero plane jumped and twisted in the air and all the instruments like compass etc. stopped working due to the weather conditions. He could not see anything and he was worried whether the fuel would last till he landed.
- 2. The woman in the control room was shocked when the narrator asked about another aero plane because there was no such plane flying in the sky that night as she saw none on the radar. It was an extremely stormy night and no one had taken the risk of flying in the storm.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-150 Words)

- 1. The narrator does not lose hope and follows the pilot in the black aero plane knowing well that he might be taking a huge risk. What qualities does he possess to endure this critical situation bravely?
- 2. The narrator knew that he could not fly up due to storm and lack of fuel but still, he continued. What kind of person was he? Was it not in his nature to accept defeat? Discuss the values one should possess to accept failures and still be able to move ahead in life

Answer

The author's plane did not have enough fuel. He knew that because of the paucity of fuel, he could not fly up and over the clouds nor he could fly around them to the north or south. But then he decided to take the risk to fly into the clouds because he wanted to go home and wanted to join his family at breakfast. This shows that he was a family-loving person. He was courageous as he knew that it would be risky to enter the clouds, but he did so nevertheless. Gradually a black aero plane approaches and the pilot signals to him to follow him. Knowing well that it is a risky move he still continues to follow and to his delight and relief he reaches an airport safely. However he cannot see the other aero plane anywhere and nor can the lady at the Control room help him. His brave act led him to safety. His Faith in himself and perhaps the Almighty enabled him to emerge safely from the grueling situation.

UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (30 -40 Words)

1. Why do you think there were no other planes flying?
2. "I'll take the risk." What is the risk that the pilot of the old Dakota takes? Why does he take the risk?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100 - 150 Words)

1. Describe the flight of the Dakota aero plane until it landed safely at the airport.
2. What is the message that Frederick Forsyth wants to convey to the readers through the lesson 'The Black Aero plane'?

Hints – The message the narrator conveys is Never say 'die' till the end. Never lose hope in the most hopeless situation. No one knows who may come to save you. The narrator was really in such a hopeless situation when he lost contact with Paris control and all his instruments and the compass was dead. Then came the mysterious pilot in the black aero plane to guide the narrator to safety.

Having Faith in oneself is important to move forward in life.

HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS [POEM]

GIST

How to tell wild animals is a humorous poem written by Carolyn Wells. In the poem, the poet is introducing various wild animals by explaining the characteristics of each of them in a very funny way. The poem suggests some dangerous ways to identify wild animals. She has used language in a way that it generates

humour. Various kinds of wild animals like Asian lion, Bengal tiger, bear, and etc. are introduced to the reader humorously. Much of the humour arises from the way language is used.

EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS [SOLVED]

1. If ever you should go by chance
 To jungles in the east;
 And if there should to you advance
 A large and tawny beast,
 If he roars at you as you're dyin'
 You'll know it is the Asian Lion

Questions.

- (a) What are the features of an Asian Lion?
- (b) What happens to you when the lion roars?
- (c) What do you mean by 'tawny'?
- (d) Where is the Asian Lion found?

Answers:

- (a) An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.
- (b) When the lion roars, it is very scary and we feel that we are going to die.
- (c) 'Tawny' means brownish-yellow in colour.
- (d) Asian lion is found in the jungles of the East. If strolling forth, a beast you view,
 Whose hide with spots in peppered, As soon as he has leapt on you, you'll know it is the Leopard.
 It will do no good to roar with pain, He'll only leap and leap again.

Questions.

- (a) Describe the hide of a leopard?
- (b) When does one come to know that it is a leopard?
- (c) Write two words from the stanza which is wrongly spelt?
- (d) Why it won't do any good to roar with pain?

Answers

- (a) A leopard's hide is covered with spots.
- (b) One comes to know that it is a leopard when it leaps or jumps on him.
- (c) Leapt and leap are given in the poem as leapt and leapt

- (d) It won't do any good to roar with pain because then the leopard will pounce upon you again.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS [SOLVED]

1. How can you identify the Asian lion and the Bengal Tiger?
2. How can you distinguish between a hyena and a crocodile?
3. How does the poet describe the bear?
4. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?

Answers

1. The Asian Lion has a large body and a brownish-yellow colour... It roars loudly when it attacks its prey. The very roar is enough to terrorise one to death. On the other hand, the Bengal Tiger is a noble animal which attacks the prey silently. It has black stripes on its yellow coat.
2. It is not easy to distinguish among wild animals. But a hyena and a crocodile can easily be distinguished. A hyena laughs as it swallows its victim, whereas a crocodile will have tears as it kills its victim.
3. The poet describes the bear in a humorous way. He says that as soon as a bear sees a human being, it hugs him tightly. It clasps its prey tightly with both its hands and squeezes him to death. If he is still alive, he gives him another tight hug to kill him.
4. A leopard has black spots all over its body. As soon as it sees someone, it leaps over him at once. There will be no use of crying with pain. It will not show any mercy, but keep on pouncing continuously on its victim.

Long Answer Question [100-150 words each.]

Describe the effective use of humour in the poem How to tell wild animals. What are the poetic liberties taken by the poet in the poem?

The poet, in the poem 'How to tell Wild Animals' creates humour by describing various beasts of prey. The way the poet explains the things is very funny yet interesting. The poet has depicted the wildlife very vividly and in a lively manner. While reading the poem, the readers enjoy the poet's work and it leaves them refreshed and happy. The humour used in the poem is suggestive and mild. If the Asian Lion 'roars' at you as you are dying, the Bengal Tiger is a 'noble' wild beast that 'greet' you when you are roaming round in the

jungle. The leopard will show no mercy and it will do no good to roar with pain. The bear gives you a very hard ‘hug’ and if you have any doubts whether it is a bear, it will give you just one more caress. The poet humorously says that hyenas come with ‘merry smiles’; but if they ‘weep’ they are crocodiles. Similarly, the poet takes many liberties to make the poem impressive. In order to rhyme with ‘lion’ the poet changes the word dying to ‘dyin’. Instead of leapt and leap the poet writes ‘lept’ and ‘lep’. All these changes make the poem more interesting and enjoyable.

Unsolved Short Answer Questions

1. How will you recognize an Asian lion?
2. What are the specialties of a Bengal Tiger?
3. How can you distinguish between a tiger and a leopard?
4. What are the distinctive features of the Asian lion as given in the poem?
5. How does a leopard behave when he sees someone?
6. Is the tight hug of a bear really friendly?
7. How will you recognize a true chameleon?

Unsolved Long Answer Questions

1. Describe the various ways to recognize Asian Lions, Bengal Tigers, Leopards, Bears, Hyenas, Crocodiles and Chameleons?
2. The poet has successfully used humour to be able to ‘tell’ or identify ‘Wild Animals’. How do you think we need lots of it in our daily life?
3. ‘Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life’. Comment.

THE BALL POEM

GIST

The poet is talking about a little boy who has lost his ball. He was playing with his ball. The ball skipped from his hand and went into the nearby water body. The poet says that this sight of the boy losing his favorite ball made him think about the boy and his reaction to this situation. He further says that the boy was helplessly looking into the water where his ball had gone. He was sad and was trembling with fear. He got so immersed in his sorrow that he kept standing near the harbor for a very long time and kept on looking for his ball. The poet says that he could console him that he may get new balls or he could also give him some money to buy another ball. But he stops himself from doing so because he thinks that the money may bring a new ball but will not bring the memories and feelings attached to the lost ball. He further says that the time

has come for the boy to learn his responsibilities. Here the poet wants to say that now the boy will learn the toughest lesson of life. The lesson of accepting the harsh realities of life that one day we will lose our loved ones and our loved things.

Extracts Based Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball, what, what is he to do? I saw it go merrily bouncing, down the street, and then merrily over – there it is in the water! No use to say – ‘O there are other balls’:
1. What has happened to the boy?
- (b) Why does the poet say ‘No use to say – ‘O there are other balls’?
- (c) Which word means ‘happily’?
- (d) Where did the ball go?

Answer:

- (a) The boy was very sad as he had lost his ball.
 - (b) The poet says so as the loss of the ball is of a major consequence to the boy.
 - (c) Merrily means happily.
 - (d) The ball went to the water.
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2. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball, What, what is he to do? I saw it go merrily bouncing, down the street, and then merrily over – there it is in the water! No use to say – ‘O there are other balls’:
 - (a) What has happened to the boy?
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Answer:

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- (b) The poet says so as the loss of the ball is of a major consequence to the boy.
- (c) Merrily means happily.
- (d) The ball went into the water.

Short answer questions (30-40 Words)

Q1-Why does the poet say, “I would not intrude on him”? Why doesn’t he offer him money to buy another ball?

A1- The poet does not want to intrude so that the boy can get a chance to learn the real truth of life. He has to learn to accept the loss. The loss here means the most important thing or relationship.

Q2- “... staring down/All his young days into the harbour where/His ball went ...” Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

A2- Yes we can say that the boy had the ball for a very long time. The line itself describes how the boy recalls those days when he used to play with the ball. The ball was surely linked to some sweet memories of his playing with the ball.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-150 Words)

1. Should the boy be allowed to grieve for his ball? If his loss is irreparable or irretrievable then how should one handle it? What lessons can be learnt?

Ans. Yes, the boy should be allowed to grieve for his ball, as he had that ball for a long time. He had many old memories associated with it since his childhood. Moreover, when a person is trying to come over his grief on his own, then one should not intrude or disturb him as it may break his chain of thoughts and may irritate him.

One should have self-consolation, and self -understanding in order to bear the loss. Self-realization and understanding are more effective and lasting than when it is done by an external agency or a person.

2. How did the boy really react to the loss of the ball or was he fearful of something or someone? Can our attention be directed toward his family and other people? Are there any lessons to be learnt?

Ans. (i) The boy was not fearful of anyone, in fact, he was really upset about the loss of the ball. The ball was valuable for him. He was shocked, remained fixed, trembled with grief staring at the place where the ball had fallen. His family must not have been affected by the loss as a ball is an easily available and inexpensive item.

(ii) The loss of the ball teaches a lesson to us. Money is external in the sense that it can give you only outer happiness or pleasure not inner. Money cannot buy the emotions and heavenly virtues. It cannot be linked with old memories. Moreover, self-consolation, realization or understanding is more effective and lasting than done by an external agency or a person.

3. Why does the poet say, 'I would not intrude on him?' Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?

Ans. When a person is trying to come over his grief on his own, he is busy making himself understand certain things if then, someone intrudes or disturbs, and his chain of thoughts is broken. It makes him irritated. Moreover, self-consolation, realization or understanding is more effective and lasting than when it is done by an external agency or a person. The poet knows it. So he does not intrude on him. His offer of money to buy another ball is useless for the boy wants the same ball he is attached to and has been playing for a long time. No other ball will be able to take its place.

UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

Short answer questions (30-40 Words)

- 1 What does "in the world of possessions" mean?
- 2 Do you think the boy has lost anything earlier? Pick out the words that suggest the answer?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-150 Words)

Q1. How is the lost ball, the metaphor of the lost childhood of the boy? Why doesn't the poet want to 'intrude on' the boy by offering him money to buy another ball?

Q2. What is the epistemology of loss in this world of possessions? How has the child learned to stand up in life?