

# TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

## PART I - HIS FIRST FLIGHT

### Facing Distrustful Wings:

The story revolves around a young seagull plagued by fear, hesitating to fly due to a lack of trust in its wings. Despite having shorter wings, the seagull's younger siblings soar fearlessly, creating a stark contrast.

### Parental Encouragement and Threats:

The young bird struggles to muster the courage to take flight, often recoiling in fear at the brink of the ledge. The parents resort to calling and threatening starvation to motivate their hesitant offspring. Despite their efforts, the seagull remains grounded, watching its family gracefully navigate the skies.

### Hunger on the Ledge:

A pivotal moment occurs when the family migrates to a vast plateau, leaving the apprehensive seagull hungry on the opposite cliff. Desperate, the young bird implores its mother for food, and a piece of fish is brought across. Starving, the seagull lunges at the food with such intensity that it propels him outward and downward.

### The Leap of Faith:

At that moment, as he feels the rush of air beneath his wings, the seagull discovers the exhilaration of flight. The once fearful bird transforms into a fearless aviator, joining his siblings in soaring and diving through the open skies. This marks a triumphant overcoming of fear and a newfound freedom in flight.

### Character Sketch: His First Flight

The story features a timid young seagull struggling with fear and a lack of trust in its wings. Contrasting with its fearless growth, overcoming its apprehensions and discovering the joy of flight. The seagull's parents play an authoritative role, employing both encouragement and stern warnings. The ledge and cliff serve as symbolic settings, representing the edge of comfort and fear. A pivotal moment on a big plateau prompts the seagull's transformation, triggered by hunger and resulting in a fearless leap into flight. Overall, the narrative explores universal themes of courage, personal growth, and triumph over fear.

## Extract Based Questions:

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.'

**Q/A:**

**a. What did the young seagull do?**

**Ans:** The young seagull wanted to catch the attention of the others. So he pretended to fall asleep on the brink of the ledge.

**b. What was the seagull afraid of?**

**Ans:** The seagull was afraid to fly.

**c. Why did he close his eyes one at a time?**

**Ans:** He was pretending to fall asleep.

**d. What could his brothers and sister do that he was not able to?**

**Ans:** 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.

**Q/A:**

**a) How did his parents try to make him fly?**

**Ans:** First, they invited him encouragingly. Then scolded and threatened to leave him alone to starve unless he flew away

**b) What was the effect of their efforts?**

**Ans:** All their efforts failed but he did not fly.

**c) What does the passage convey about the young seagull?**

**Ans:** He was a coward.

**d) How was the young seagull threatened by his parents initially when he did not fly?**

**Ans.** First his parents encouraged him to fly but later on, they even threatened to let him starve if he did not fly.

## Top 10 PYQs:

### Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. How did the young seagull's family celebrate his first flight?**

**Answer:** The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even the encouragement and coaxing didn't work. But when the seagull had his first flight, he as well as his family was happy, relieved and proud of him to have completed his first flight.

**2. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull 'exhausted by the strange exercise'?**

**Answer:** The seagull didn't dare to fly. Hence, he used to make excuses for not flying. He felt certain that his wings were too weak to support him. He had no courage to flap his wings and failed to muster up the courage to take the plunge.

**3. What was the young seagull's experience during his first flight?**

**Answer:** Falling from the ledge, the seagull was terrified, but soon he started soaring and then flying. He forgot that he didn't always know how to fly. His fear soon turned into confidence, and then into amusement. As he was landing, he was again afraid, but, soon became at ease. It was a memorable first flight.

**4. How did the young seagull's parents treat him initially when he did not fly?**

**Answer:** First, his parents encouraged him, coaxed him then scolded and taunted him for his cowardice. They even threatened to let him starve if he did not fly. But the young seagull could not muster up the courage to fly.

**5. Did the seagull think the sea was like land? Pick out the words that suggest this.**

**Answer:** Yes, the seagull thought that the sea was like land. He called it the green (looting). When he had learned how to fly, he flew for some time. Then he came down and stood on the sea surface thinking it to be like land. But his legs sank into the sea. 'Dropped his legs to stand on', 'sank into', and 'screamed with fright' are the words that suggest this.

**6. Do you sympathise with the seagull? Give reasons.**

**Answer:** Yes, we sympathize with the seagull. He is a very young bird. He has not yet learned how to fly. His parents want he should fly. They encourage him. But he is afraid of falling. His parents starve him for twenty-four hours. In the end, however, the seagull learns how to fly.

**7. Why didn't the young seagull take the plunge? What stopped him from doing so?**

**Answer:** The young seagull was the only one in his family who couldn't fly. His brothers and sister, despite having shorter wings, had already learned to fly. He was convinced that his wings wouldn't support him, making him hesitant and afraid to flap them and take the plunge into the air.

**8. Did upbraiding and threatening of his parents help him in flying?**

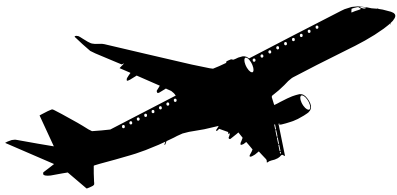
**Answer:** The young seagull's parents tried various ways to teach him to fly. They encouraged and challenged him, flying around to motivate him. When he refused to move, they scolded him and threatened to let him starve unless he took flight.

**9. How were his two brothers and sister different from the young seagull?**

**Answer:** Unlike the young seagull, his two brothers and sister had already learned to fly, despite having shorter wings. He watched as his parents trained them in perfecting their flight, skimming the waves, and diving for fish. He even saw his older brother catch his first herring and devour it.

**10. How did the young seagull overcome his fear and soared gradually towards the sea during his first flight?**

**Answer:** Maddened by hunger, the young seagull dived at the fish his mother carried in her beak. As he fell outwards and downward, he was seized with fear, and his heart stood still. However, the fear lasted only for a moment. Soon, he overcame it and felt the joy of flying.



## PART II – BLACK AEROPLANE

### Dreaming of a Holiday

In the story of "Black Aeroplane," a pilot shares how his desire for a family holiday clouds his judgment during a flight from Paris to London. Envisioning a tasty breakfast upon landing, he ignores warning signs as dark clouds loom on the horizon, signaling an approaching storm.

### Choosing the Risky Path:

Instead of turning back for safety, the pilot, driven by his holiday dream, decides to fly into the storm, putting the lives of passengers at risk.

### Turbulence and Panic:

As the plane enters the storm, everything goes dark, instruments fail, and the pilot loses control. Panic sets in with very little fuel left, raising doubts about survival.

### A Mysterious Companion:

Amidst the storm, the pilot sees another plane beside him. Desperate, he follows this unknown guide, fearing the diminishing fuel.

### Hope and Disappearance

The mysterious plane leads the way out of the storm, offering a glimmer of hope. However, it disappears suddenly, leaving the original pilot bewildered and questioning the reality of the encounter.

### The Shocking Revelation

Upon landing, the pilot discovers there is no other plane; it is an illusion. The shock of his misjudgment and the surreal experience linger as he reflects on the consequences of prioritizing his holiday dream over safety.

### Character Sketch: The Pilot in "Black Aeroplane"

The pilot in "Black Aeroplane" is a seasoned aviator driven by a desire for a family holiday. Despite his expertise, a risky decision to fly into a storm, fueled by personal fulfillment, leads to a perilous situation. The character's vulnerability surfaces as panic sets in during instrument failure. The encounter with a mysterious plane prompts reflection on the consequences of prioritizing personal dreams over safety, marking a transformative moment in the character's journey.

## Extract Based Questions:

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 thought, but I wanted to get home

**Q/A:**

**a. What does 'them' in the first sentence refer to?**

**Ans:** Them' means the big black clouds

**b. Why could he not fly over on either side of storm clouds?**

**Ans:** There was not enough fuel left in the Dakota - -airplane for him to fly around the clouds

**c. Why did he not go back to Paris?**

**Ans:** He wanted to get home and enjoy breakfast with his family

**d. Which country was the pilot of the plane flying towards?**

**Ans:** 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.

**Q/A:**

**a)Where was the pilot at this time?**

**Ans:** The pilot was inside the black storm cloud.

**b) Who does he ' refer to in the first sentence?**

**Ans:** The pilot of the Black airplane.

**c) Why did he of the black aero plane bring his plane in front of the Dakota airplane?**

**Ans:** The pilot tried to guide the author out of the storm clouds by asking him to follow him.

**d) Why did the pilot of the Dakota follow him like an obedient child?**

**Ans.** 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.

## Top 10 PYQs:

### Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. "I'll take the risk." What is the risk? Why does the pilot of the old Dakota take it?**

**Answer:** The risk is that of going through the storm in the narrator's old Dakota airplane. He flew through as he did not have fuel to fly around them, and couldn't fly over them. Also, he wanted to get home for a big English breakfast.

**2. Describe the black clouds from the point of view of the pilot.**

**Answer:** The writer was going from France to England. He was flying his Dakota airplane. When he had gone 150 kilometers from France, he saw storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains standing in front of him across the sky.

**3. How did the black aeroplane rescue the first pilot?**

**Answer:** The pilot of the black airplane waved his hand. He gestured for the first pilot to follow him. The writer followed him. He followed the black plane for half an hour. Suddenly, his plane was out of the clouds. He could see the lights of the airport and landed his airplane. In this way, the black airplane rescued the first pilot.

**4. Was the pilot of the Dakota able to meet the pilot of the black?**

**Answer:** No, he was not able to meet the pilot of the black airplane. When he was going to land his plane, he looked behind him. But the black plane was not there. The sky was empty. The woman at the control center told him that no other planes were flying on that stormy night.

**5. Why didn't he return to Paris when he saw the storm clouds?**

**Answer:** Paris was 150 kilometers behind him when he saw the storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains standing in front of him. He could not fly up and over them as he didn't have enough fuel. He thought of going back to Paris but changed his idea. He decided to go to England to be in time for breakfast.

**6. The narrator had two options before risking himself entering the storm clouds? Why didn't he choose them?**

**Answer:** Definitely, the narrator had two options before him if he didn't want to take the risk of entering the storm cloud. He could turn back and go to Paris which was about 150 kilometres behind him. Another option was to fly up and over the dark clouds. But he didn't choose any of the options. He wanted to be in England to have his breakfast in time. He couldn't fly around the clouds to the north or south as he didn't have enough fuel to fly.

### **7. What did he do when he was inside the clouds?**

**Answer:** The narrator took the risk of entering the black storm clouds. Inside, everything suddenly turned pitch black, and nothing was visible outside. The old plane jumped and twisted in the air. He was shocked when his compass stopped working, and his other instruments also failed. He tried to contact Paris Control on the radio but received no response.

### **8. Who rescued the narrator when he was hopelessly lost in the storm clouds?**

**Answer:** The narrator had lost all hope as he was trapped in the storm clouds. His compass and other instruments had stopped working, and even Paris Control did not respond. In this hopeless situation, he suddenly saw another aeroplane flying next to him. It had no lights on its wings, but he could see the pilot's face. The mysterious pilot signaled him to follow, and the narrator obediently did so, ultimately finding his way out of the storm.

### **9. Why did the narrator want to meet the woman in the control tower? Did he get any information about the mysterious disappearance of the black aeroplane and its pilot?**

**Answer:** The narrator was puzzled about how the pilot of the black aeroplane and his plane had disappeared. He wanted to get some definite information from the woman in the control room. However, she told him that on that stormy night, no other plane was in the sky except his old Dakota. This left the narrator with no answers about the mysterious man who helped him land safely without a compass or radio.

### **10. Describe the flight of the Dakota airplane until it landed safely at the airport.**

**Answer:** The narrator of this story is a pilot. One night, he was flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France. It was a starry night, and he was heading to England, hoping to spend his holiday with his family. It was an easy journey, and he was in a joyful mood. He looked at his watch—it was one-thirty in the morning. Through his wireless radio, he contacted Paris Control, and they instructed him to turn twelve degrees west. He followed their advice and continued flying.

He was 150 kilometers from Paris when he suddenly saw huge black clouds ahead. It was impossible to fly above them, and he didn't have enough fuel to fly around them. With no other option, he decided to take the risk and flew straight into the storm clouds.