



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2020-21)

QUESTION BANK – TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside.

(a) Who does 'I' refer to here?

I refers to the pilot of the Dakota plane.

(b) Where was he going?

He was going to England from France.

(c) What made him happy?

The pilot was looking forward to spending his holiday with his family and to have a good, big English breakfast.

(d) Which words in the above extract indicate that the weather was fine?

The words like Rising moon and cloudless sky indicate that the weather was fine.

2. He waited a moment in surprise, wondering why she did not come nearer, and then maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still.

(a) Who does 'he' refer to here?

He refers to the young seagull.

(b) Who is 'she' here?

She refers to the seagull's mother.

(c) What did he think she would offer him?

He thought that she would offer him a fish to eat.

(d) Find a word from the extract which means the same as 'dreadful'

Monstrous.

3. Only his mother was looking at him. She was standing on a little high hump on the plateau, her white breast thrust forward. Now and again, she tore at a piece of fish that lay at her feet and then scrapped each side of her beak on the rock. The sight of the food maddened him. How he loved to tear food that way, scrapping his beak now and again to whet it.

(a) The young seagull's mother was standing on a little high----- on the plateau.
hump

(b) The sight of the food ----- him.
maddened.

(c) Now and again, the young seagull's mother tore at a piece of fish that lay at her feet.
(True/ False)
True.

(d) Find a word from the extract which means same as 'sharpen'
Whet

4. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I could not believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round. It was dead. It would not work. The other instruments were suddenly dead, too.

(a) Why could the writer not see anything outside the aeroplane?

The writer could not see anything outside the aeroplane because it was dark outside due to dark clouds.

(b) Why was the aeroplane twisting in the air?

All the instruments of the plane were not working and due to stormy night, the plane could not be kept under control.

(c) Why could the writer not believe his eyes?

The writer could not believe his eyes because the compass was turning round and round.

(d) Find a word from the extract which means the same as 'and curved in different direction'.

Twisted.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What happened when the young seagull dived at the fish picked up by his mother?

When the young sea gull dived at the fish, he fell outwards and downwards with a scream. A monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. Soon his wings spread outwards and he could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air.

2. How did the seagull feel when his belly touched the green sea?

When the seagull's belly touched the green sea, he was scared that he would sink. He tried to fly but could not. He was exhausted and weak due to hunger.

3. Why was the young seagull afraid to fly?

The seagull was afraid to fly because he thought his wings would not support him and he was afraid of vast expanse of sea. He could not muster courage.

4. What did the young seagull do to attract his mother's attention?

In order to attract his mother's attention, the young seagull stood on one leg and pretended to be falling asleep on the brink of the ledge.

5. Describe the sky when 'Dakota' took off from Paris.

When 'Dakota' took off from Paris, the sky was quite clear. The moon was coming up in the east and the stars were shining. There were no clouds in the sky.

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

The risk was of flying the old Dakota aeroplane into the storm. The pilot took it as he wished to reach home as soon as possible and to be present at the breakfast table.

7. What difficulties did the narrator face while flying in the storm?

The difficulties that the narrator faced were that all the instruments of his aeroplane had stopped working. He could not see any thing as there were dark clouds all around.

8. When did the seagull's flight begin? And where did it end?

The young seagull's flight started when he dived trying to snatch the piece of fish from his mother's beak. He fell down but instinctively his wings spread out, he flapped them and started flying. His flight ended after half an hour when he landed on the green sea with his family.

9. What happened when the author turned the aeroplane twelve degrees west towards England?

When the author turned the aeroplane twelve degree west towards England, he saw the huge storm clouds that looked like black mountains standing in front of him across the sky.

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

The woman in the control room was surprised when the narrator asked her about the other aeroplane and its pilot. She said that there were no other aeroplanes detected on the radar.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. Fear and lack of confidence stop one from learning new things. Do you agree? How did these two traits of the young seagull make him coward? How did he overcome these short comings?

Yes, it is true that fear and lack of confidence stop one from learning new things as in the story, the young seagull lacked courage and confidence in his character. He was too scared of flying. His family tried hard to make him fly but he refused to do so because of his fear of sinking in the seawater. They even scolded him for his cowardice. They tried to tempt him with food but he was not willing to learn flying. Once he dived, his fear disappeared and he enjoyed his first flight.

It is a fact that unless we try for something and overcome our fear, we can't learn anything. Confidence and motivation are two most important traits that make any learning possible.

2. Describe the methods used by the seagull's family to help the young seagull overcome his fear and fly.

This story is about a young seagull. The time had come when he should fly like his parents and brothers and sister. But he was afraid to fly. His parents tried their best to teach him

how to fly. But he refused to fly. They left him alone on his ledge. They threatened him that he would starve. Even then he was too afraid to fly. His brothers and sister made fun of him. They laughed at his cowardice. At last, his mother thought of a plan. She took a piece of fish in her beak and flew towards him. She came near him but did not land on the ledge. The young seagull was very hungry. He came to the brink of the ledge. In order to get food, he dived at the fish. But he fell from the rock. He became terrified. But it was only for a moment. The next moment, he flapped his wings and started flying. In this way, his mother was able to make him fly.

3. The narrator had two options of avoiding the terrible storm clouds. Why didn't he use them? Was his decision of flying straight into storm clouds a sound decision?

The narrator could see black mountains of clouds all around him. They were storm clouds. He had two options and by using them he could avoid the terrible storm clouds. He could go back to Paris. He had left Paris 150 kilometers behind. He wanted to go back but the temptation of having an early breakfast at home stopped him. He couldn't fly up and above the storm clouds either. He didn't have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. It seems that flying back to Paris would have been the best option in those circumstances. He couldn't fly north or south of the storm as he hadn't enough fuel in the second tank. His decision of flying straight into the storm clouds was motivated by his desire to have an early breakfast with his family. It was rather a bold but risky decision. He would have been in deep trouble, had the pilot of the strange black areoplane not helped him to land safely.