

Two Stories About Flying Previous Year Questions

(with model answers)

Q1. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull 'exhausted by the strange exercise'? Justify the given statement with reference to baby seagull's fear. [CBSE 2024]

Ans. The young seagull was a coward. He lacked courage and feared that he would fall and hit the ground. The wings might not be strong enough to bear his weight. Thus, he was not able to fly.

Q2. Motivation plays an important role in taking risks in life and in succeeding. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the pilot of the old Dakota and the young seagull. [CBSE 2023]

Ans. Yes, motivation gives us that push to take up risks in life. We also think that if the other person can accomplish certain tasks, so can we. The role model's success inspires us to take the first step and break the barriers in our mind.

In the lesson – Two stories about flying, we see the young seagull who is so scared of taking the first flight. However, immense hunger and the sight of fish in the mother's beak motivate him and he just takes off the cliff. Even the pilot is so eager to reach home and have an English breakfast with the family, the next morning that he overlooks the dark storm clouds and flies into them. Thus, we see that both the characters take risk only because of the great motivating factors.

Q3. How did the young seagull overcome his fear and make his first flight? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The young seagull was afraid of flying. He felt certain that his wings would never support him and could not get himself to fly like his siblings. His parents, brother and sister decided to leave him alone but soon, he became mad with hunger. He saw his mother with a piece of fish in her beak, reaching to him at a little distance. The sight of the fish maddened him, so he dived at the fish without thinking about the result. He fell downwards, and the next moment, he suddenly felt his wings spread outward and he started flying. He was soaring gradually downwards and upwards. He was then no longer afraid and in this way, he made his first flight.

Q4. Why and when did the narrator say that ‘everything’ was going well, it was an easy flight.’? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The pilot was happy when he was alone high up above the sleeping countryside. He was dreaming of his holiday and looking forward to being with his family. He called the Paris Control Room to enquire about the location of the plane and the route to be followed. He thought he would be in time for breakfast and a good big English breakfast would be ready for him. At this point, he thought that everything was going well and that it was an easy flight.

Q5. Why did the pilot think of going back to Paris? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. The pilot had just crossed Paris when he saw dense black storm clouds ahead. He was reluctant to enter the storm and so, he thought of going back to Paris.

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