

## Two Stories About Flying

(By Liam O' Flaherty & Frederick Forsyth)

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### Part I – *His First Flight* (Liam O' Flaherty)

#### Summary

- The story is about a **young seagull** who is afraid of flying.
- His parents and siblings can fly, but he hesitates out of **fear of falling**.
- His family scolds and even leaves him alone on the ledge without food.
- Out of hunger, he sees his mother flying with a piece of fish.
- In desperation, he dives forward to get the food — and **instinctively learns to fly**.
- His fear turns into **confidence and joy** as he soars with his family.

#### Themes

- Fear vs Courage
- Importance of self-confidence
- Support & encouragement from family

#### Characters

- **Young seagull** – timid, fearful, hesitant, but later courageous.
- **Mother seagull** – caring, uses clever trick (fish) to make him fly.
- **Father & siblings** – confident, already skilled at flying.

#### Message

- **Fear is natural**, but must be overcome with courage.
  - Real growth comes when one **faces challenges**.
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### Part II – *Black Aeroplane* (Frederick Forsyth)

#### Summary

- The narrator (a pilot) flies his Dakota plane at night.
- He dreams of a holiday with his family, so he takes a shortcut across **stormy clouds**.

- The weather turns bad, and his compass and radio stop working.
- Suddenly, a **mystery black aeroplane** appears and guides him safely through the storm.
- After landing, the narrator asks the control tower about the other plane.
- Shockingly, they tell him: *"No other plane was flying tonight."*

### ✨ Themes

- Courage in danger
- Hope and faith
- Mysterious help in difficult times

### 😊 Characters

- **Narrator (Pilot)** – hopeful, brave, but overconfident.
- **Mysterious pilot (Black Aeroplane)** – unknown helper, symbolic of hope/guardian.

### 📄 Message

- Sometimes, unseen help guides us in trouble.
- Optimism and courage can lead us out of any crisis.

### 🎭 Literary Devices

- **Irony:** No black aeroplane officially existed, yet it saved him.
- **Symbolism:** Black aeroplane = faith, hope, or guardian angel.
- **Imagery:** Description of storm, clouds, flight.

### ❓ Short Questions (1–2 marks)

1. Who wrote *His First Flight*? 🖐️ Liam O' Flaherty
2. Who is the main character in *His First Flight*? 🖐️ A young seagull
3. Why was the seagull afraid to fly? 🖐️ Fear of falling
4. How did the mother trick the seagull into flying? 🖐️ By tempting him with food (fish)
5. Who wrote *Black Aeroplane*? 🖐️ Frederick Forsyth

6. What problem did the pilot face? 👉 Storm, no compass/radio
  7. Who guided the narrator out of the storm? 👉 A mysterious black aeroplane
  8. What was strange about the black aeroplane? 👉 It didn't exist according to the control tower
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### 🌟 Long Questions (5–6 marks)

**Q1. Describe the young seagull's emotions before and after his first flight.**

**Answer:**

Before flying, the young seagull was nervous and terrified of falling. He lacked confidence, even though his siblings had already mastered flying. His hunger finally pushed him to attempt flight. Once he succeeded, his fear turned into joy and pride. He realized his true potential and joined his family in the sky.

**Q2. Why did the narrator take the risk of flying through the storm in *Black Aeroplane*? What was the outcome?**

**Answer:**

The narrator wanted to reach home quickly and enjoy breakfast with his family, so he took the shortcut through storm clouds. However, he faced danger when his instruments stopped working. A mysterious black aeroplane appeared and guided him safely to the runway. The strange fact was that no such plane existed according to the control tower, leaving the mystery unsolved.

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### 🌱 Value-Based Q&A

Q1. What values does *His First Flight* teach us?

👉 Courage, self-confidence, determination, and the importance of family support.

Q2. What values are highlighted in *Black Aeroplane*?

👉 Hope, faith, optimism, and the mysterious ways in which help can come in times of crisis.

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✅ With this, you now have:

- **Summary** (both parts)
- **Themes, Characters, Messages**
- **Literary Devices**

- **Short Q&A**
- **Long Q&A**
- **Value-based Q&A**