

The Black Aeroplane

Question 1: “I’ll take the risk.” What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?

Answer: A huge storm was between the pilot and his destination. Flying through storm can be very risky, especially for small planes like Dakota. But as the pilot was going on holiday to meet his family, so he thought of taking the risk. Even those of you living with parents must be looking ahead to meet with cousins and grandparents during holidays. And once you are in a mood for holiday then no matter if your train or flight is running behind schedule, you will suffer all hardships in the way because the happiness of holiday will numb your pain.

Especially, think about those students who are living in boarding schools and get once in a year opportunity to meet their parents. They will happily face all harsh conditions of journey to reach their home.

Question 2: Describe the narrator’s experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.

Answer: The plane twisted and turned in the storm. The instrument panel was not working. Pilot was not sure about his location and direction. This must have been a fearsome experience.

Then the pilot sees a plane flying besides his plane. The pilot of another plane waves and shows him the way out of storm. It was like a godsend for him. Following the unknown person, the pilot comes out of the storm and reaches his destination.

Question 3: Why does the narrator say, “I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota...”?

Answer: Dakota’s status among flying community is same as a Maruti 800 is having among cars, or an old scooter is having among two wheelers. These models are the basic means of conveyance. People don’t feel elated while commuting by them. So more often than not a pilot coming out of an old Dakota always feels sorry for having to fly such an old and rickety model.

But in this story as the pilot weathered the storm and landed safely so he was more than happy to come out from the old Dakota.

Question 4: What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

Answer: The woman at the control centre was sure that nobody apart from the narrator was flying at that time. So, when she heard about another pilot showing the way to the narrator, she had every reason to disbelieve.

People at airport control center get information about each and every plane flying in the vicinity. They get information through RADAR.

Question 5: Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely?

Answer: It is difficult to guess. But probably it was the narrator's self confidence or self belief, which created the illusion of another plane flying nearby.

As other concrete evidences in the story from control centre indicate, there was no other plane flying at that time. So maybe the illusion theory holds more water.

Story II The Black Aeroplane

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Question 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. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch at one thirty in the morning.

I should call Paris Control soon. I thought. As I looked down past the nose of the aeroplane, I saw the lights of a big city in front of me.

(a) How was the weather when the pilot started flying his aeroplane?

(b) Why was the pilot flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England?

(c) Find out the word similar in the meaning to 'hoping with pleasure'.

(d) Choose from the passage the word which means 'land outside towns or cities'.

Answer:

(a) When the pilot started flying his aeroplane, it was a clear weather as the moon was up in the east, stars were shining and there wasn't any cloud in the sky.

(b) The pilot was flying his old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England because he wanted to enjoy his holiday and morning breakfast with his family.

- (c) Looking forward to.
- (d) The word is countryside.

Question 2.

Paris was about 150 kilometres behind me when I saw the clouds. Storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains 'standing in front of me across the sky-I knew I could not fly up and over them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. CBSE 2016

- (a) What happened when the pilot was about 150 kilometres away from Paris?
- (b) What does the author compare the clouds to?
- (c) Find out the word similar in meaning as sufficient.
- (d) The word 'elephantine' is similar in meaning to the word

Answer:

- (a) The pilot saw storm clouds when he was about 150 kilometres away from Paris.
- (b) The author compares the clouds to black mountain.
- (c) The word is 'enough'.
- (d) The word is 'huge'.

Question 3.

"He knows that I am lost", I thought 'He's trying to help me.

He turned his aeroplane 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 aeroplane like an obedient child.

After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now, there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

- (a) Why was the pilot happy to find his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds?
- (b) Why was the pilot frightened again?
- (c) Find the opposite of 'insufficient' from the passage.
- (d) What does a 'storm' mean?

Answer:

- (a) The pilot was happy to find his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds because another pilot was helping him come out of the storm clouds.
- (b) The pilot felt frightened again because the fuel was not sufficient to reach the destination as it was only enough for next five or ten minutes.
- (c) Enough.
- (d) A storm is a very bad weather with strong winds and rain, thunder and lightning.

Question 4.

I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control

tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. 'I wanted to say 'Thank you'.

She looked at me very strangely, and then laughed.

'Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. 'Yours was the only one I could see on the radar.'

So who helped me to arrive there safely without a compass or a radio, and without any more fuel in my tanks? Who was the pilot on the strange black aeroplane, flying in the storm, without lights? CBSE 2016

- (a) Why did the writer go to the Control center immediately?
- (b) Why was the writer shocked after hearing the woman's word?
- (c) Find out the word in the passage that means the same as 'peculiar'.
- (d) Which part of speech does the word 'tonight' belong to?

Answer:

- (a) The writer went to the Control center to ask about the black aeroplane so he could thank the pilot for saving his life.
- (b) The writer was shocked after hearing the woman's word because she told him that there was no other aeroplane flying that night as she had seen on the radar.
- (c) Strange.
- (d) 'Tonight' is an adverb.

Story II The Black Aeroplane [2 Marks each]

Question 1.

Describe author's feeling while he was flying his aeroplane back to England?

Answer:

The author was very excited while he was flying his aeroplane back to England because he wanted to spend his holiday with his family at home.

Question 2.

How much fuel was there in the aeroplane when the writer started flying?

Answer:

There was sufficient fuel in the tanks of the aeroplane to reach England safely when the writer started flying.

Question 3.

What risk did the writer take while flying? Why?

Answer:

The writer decided to risk to fly through the storm clouds because he wanted to enjoy his holiday with his family back in England.

Question 4.

What did the writer feel inside the clouds?

Answer:

When the writer entered the clouds, it became impossible to see outside the

aeroplane. The aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air and all the instruments like compass etc stopped working due to the weather conditions.

Question 5.

What did the writer see inside the black clouds?

Answer:

The writer saw a black aeroplane which had no lights on its wings. The writer could see the face of the pilot in the black clouds who was waving and signalling him to follow to get out of the storm.

Question 6.

Why did the writer follow the pilot of another aeroplane? [CBSE 2016]

Answer:

The writer followed another aeroplane because he had lost the way in the storm and was unable to see anything. The pilot of another aeroplane was helping him to get out of the storm and land safely.

Question 7.

Why did the woman in control room get shocked when the writer asked about another aeroplane?

Answer: The woman in the control room was shocked when the writer asked about another aeroplane because there was no such plane flying in the sky that night as she saw on the radar.

Question 8.

Why did the writer want to meet the pilot of another black aeroplane?

Answer:

The writer wanted to meet the pilot of another black aeroplane to thank him as he had saved the life of the writer by helping him come out from in the storm.

Story II The Black Aeroplane [8 Marks each]

Question 1.

How did the writer get out of the storm in the night to land safely? [CBSE 2016]

Answer:

The writer was flying his old Dakota aeroplane when he saw the black clouds. He was lost in the storm. Suddenly, he saw a black aeroplane by his side, which had no lights, on its wings.

The pilot instructed the writer to follow as he had lost the way. He obeyed him like a child. He was very happy to follow him. After some time the pilot of another plane started to land. The writer followed him blindly through the storm and came out of the clouds. He saw the lights of the runway and landed safely.

Question 2.

Why was the writer happy when he decided to fly in the night?

Answer:

The writer was very happy when he decided to fly that night because he was going

home to his family to enjoy his holiday. When he started, everything seemed to be perfect. The sky was clear, no clouds could be seen and the stars were shining. It all made it an easy task for the writer to fly that night over the sleeping countryside of Paris. His assumption of everything being in place made him happy.

Question 3.

The pilot wanted to thank another pilot after his safe landing. Why? What values of the writer are reflected from his action?

Answer:

The pilot (writer) of the old Dakota was caught in the storm. He lost his contact with the control room. In this troubling situation, his fuel tank was also empty. He lost all his hopes but suddenly a black strange plane appeared. The pilot of the black plane asked writer to follow him. The writer landed safely. After his safe landing, he wanted to thank the pilot of the black plane. This shows his gratitude towards the pilot of the Black Plane. He was thankful to him for saving his life. It shows that the pilot of Dakota had a value of gratefulness in his character.

Extract Based Questions (4 marks each)

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

Question 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. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch; one thirty in the morning I should call Paris Control soon,' I thought. **(1×4=4)**

- (a) What made the pilot happy?
- (b) Which words indicate that the weather was fine ?
- (c) What was the purpose behind calling Paris Control ?
- (d) Which words means the same as 'aircraft' ?

Answer:

- (a) The thought of coming holiday and meeting with his family.
- (b) Rising moon, cloudless sky.
- (c) To know where his aeroplane was and direction of the route.
- (d) Dakota aeroplane.

Question 2.

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. **(1×4=4)**

- (a) Why could the writer not see anything outside the aeroplane ?
- (b) Why was the aeroplane twisting in the air ?
- (c) Find out a word from the passage which means the same as turned and curved in

different direction.

(d) Why could the writer not believe his eyes.

Answer:

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

(b) The aeroplane was twisting in the air as it was a stormy night.

(c) 'Twisted' means 'turned and curved in different directions'.

(d) Because the compass was turning round and round.

Question 3.

Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another airplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face - turned towards me. It was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.

"Follow me," he was saying, "Follow me."

"He knows that I am lost," I thought, "He's trying to help me." **(1×4=4)**

(a) What did he see in the black clouds ?

(b) What was strange about the second plane ?

(c) Pick out the word from the passage which is opposite of 'farther'.

(d) What did the writer do ?

Answer:

(a) He saw another airplane (aeroplane) in the black clouds.

(b) The second plane had no lights on its wings but surprisingly, the narrator was able to see the face of the pilot.

(c) near.

(d) The writer lifted one hand and waved.

Question 4.

There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face – turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved. **(1×4=4)**

(a) Whom do 'I' and 'He' refer to ?

(b) What problem did T face in the storm ?

(c) Which word in the passage means 'an instrument to find direction' ?

(d) Why was the writer glad ?

Answer:

(a) 'I' refers to the narrator and 'He' refers to the person flying in plane next to the narrator's.

(b) The narrator had no radio, no compass and he could not see where he was. He was lost in the storm.

(c) 'Compass' means 'an instrument to find direction'.

(d) The writer was glad to see another person.

Question 5.

They look like black mountains standing in front of me across the sky. I knew I could not fly up and cover them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south. **(1×4=4)**

- (a) What are 'they' here ?
- (b) Explain the figure of speech used in the above extract ?
- (c) Which word in the passage means the same as 'sufficient' ?
- (d) Did the writer have enough fuel ?

Answer:

- (a) 'They' are storm clouds.
- (b) The figure of speech used here is simile. The storm clouds are compared to black mountains using 'like'.
- (c) 'Enough' means 'sufficient'.
- (d) No.

Question 6.

"I ought to go back to Paris," I thought, but I wanted to get home. I wanted that breakfast. I'll take the risk', I thought, and flew that Old Dakota straight into the storm. 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 couldn't believe my eyes : the compass was turning round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. **(1×4=4)**

- (a) Why did the pilot think to go back to Paris ?
- (b) What did the pilot decide ?
- (c) What was unbelievable for the writer ?
- (d) Which word in the passage means the same as 'not working'.

Answer:

- (a) The pilot thought so because he was in the storm and every thing was black outside the aeroplane.
- (b) The pilot decided to fly the aeroplane into the storm, inside the clouds.
- (c) It was unbelievable for the writer that no instrument of the aeroplane was working.
- (d) Dead.

Question 7.

"Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway An airport I was safe I turned to look for my friend in the blank aeroplane." **(1×4=4)**

- (a) Name the plane in which narrator was flying.
- (b) Why was he amazed to see a runway ?
- (c) Which word in the passage is the opposite of the word 'unsafe' ?
- (d) Why did the narrator turn ?

Answer:

- (a) The narrator was flying in the plane named Dakota.
- (b) The narrator had given up hope of safe landing. Moreover, he was amazed that he was alive and had landed safely.

- (c) The opposite of 'unsafe' is 'safe'.
(d) Jo look for his friend.

Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 words & 2 marks each)

Question 1.

Describe the sky when 'Dakota' took off from Paris. [Board Term I, 2012; Set-EL2 – 024]

Answer:

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

Question 2.

'I'll take the risk ? What is the risk ? Why does the pilot of the old Dakota take it ? [Board Term I, 2012; Set-EL2 – 035]

Answer:

The risk was of flying the old Dakota airplane 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.

Question 3.

What difficulties did the narrator face while flying in the storm ? [Board Term I, 2012; Set-EL2 – 016]

Answer:

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

Question 4.

A pilot is lost in the storm clouds. Does he arrive safe ? Who helps him ? [Board Term I, 2012; Set-EL2 – 045]

Answer:

Yes, the pilot arrives safe on the runway. He is helped by another pilot of a mysterious plane. He vanishes soon after the narrator landed on the airport.

Question 5.

What shocked the narrator after landing safely ? [Board Term I, 2012; Set-EL2 – 062]

Answer:

The narrator was shocked to land safely after struggling against the black storm. Besides, he wanted to thank the other pilot who showed him the way, but he too was seen nowhere.

Long Answer Type Questions (100-120 words & 8 marks each)

Question 1.

From the beginning to the end of the lesson the black aeroplane is a mystery. How ?

Answer:

The narrator started his journey with old Dakota – 088. At that time, the sky was clear. But suddenly, he found himself in the midst of black clouds. There was zero visibility, everything was black. He couldn't find any way to escape. All of a sudden, the narrator saw a black aeroplane and was helped by the other pilot. He safely landed at the airport but no one saw the black aeroplane. It remains a mystery till the end.

Question 2.

Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm. Throw a light on his feelings and emotions at that time.

Answer:

The narrator was in a hurry to reach England although he had little fuel. He felt homesick and missed his home. So, he took the risk to fly on low fuel. Suddenly, he lost contact with Paris due to cloudy storm. Just then a black aeroplane appeared. He was helped by the mysterious pilot and was able to land safely.

Question 3.

How did the author come out safely from the black clouds ?

Answer:

The author took the risk of flying through the black clouds. He couldn't see anything. The aeroplane jumped and twisted up every now and then. All his instruments had stopped working. Suddenly, he saw another plane with no lights on its wings. The other pilot gestured him to follow his plane and guided him till they had landed safely out of the clouds.