UDAAN 2025

Two Stories About Flying : His First Flight

English | Lecture - 06

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Topics *to be covered*

1. Warm-up Game
2. Two Stories About Flying : His First Flight (Part - 01)
3. Exercise and Quiz

Recap *of previous Lecture*

1. Warm-up Game
2. Reading Comprehension
3. Exercise and Quiz

Game time!

Four pictures, one word!

Four pictures, one word!

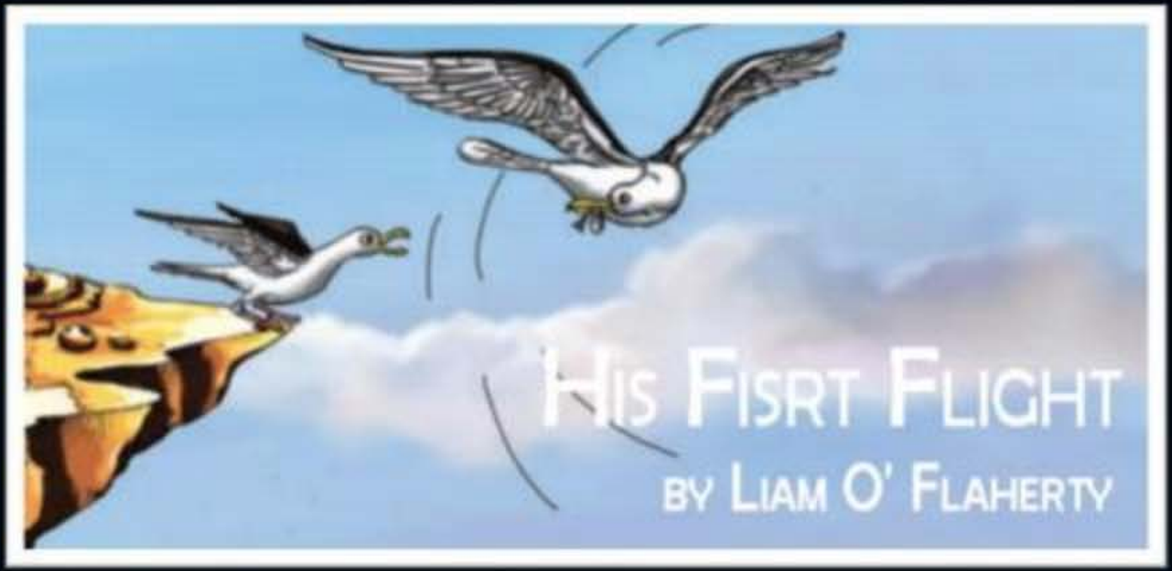
farmer

architect

tailor

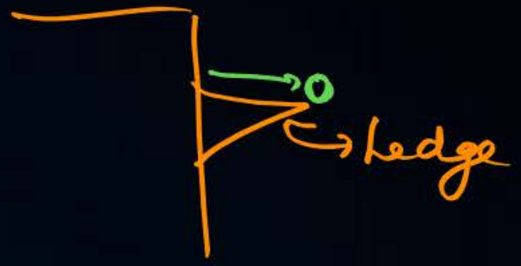
journalist

Topic : Two Stories About Flying : His First Flight



- *This story is about a family of Seagulls. There was a young seagull in the family who couldn't fly due to fear of falling down.*
- *The story highlights the importance of family in one's life.*
- *It also shows that one needs to believe in oneself to overcome all the hurdles of life.*

Topic : His First Flight



Seabird अकेला horizontal shelf

THE young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down – miles down.

डरना edge to move wings up & down a wide open area फैला हुआ below

Sure

He felt certain that his wings would never support

झुकाना

him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the

little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.

Even when each of his brothers and his little sister,

छोटा

whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to

edge; corner

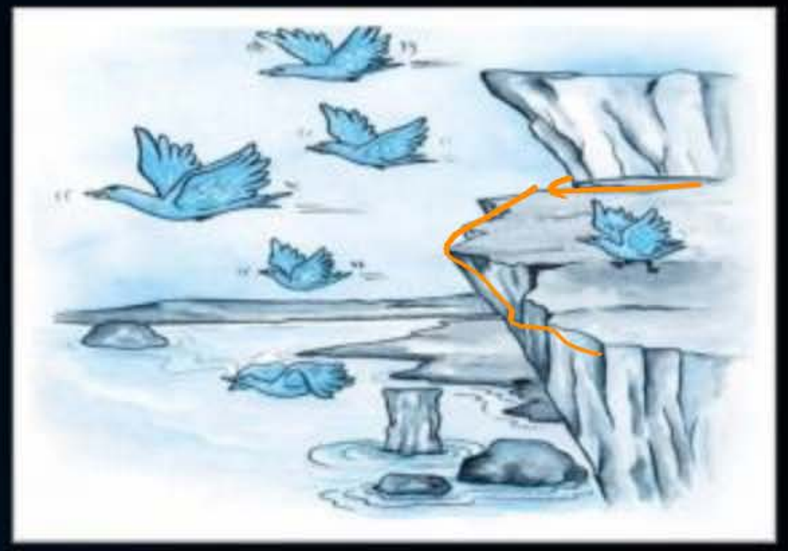
the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he

gather हिम्मत jump

failed to muster up courage to take that plunge

risky & threatening

which appeared to him so desperate.



Shouting in an unpleasant sound

His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him,

धमकी Scold; rebuking

threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.

भूखा मारना जबतक

That was twenty-four hours ago. Since then, nobody had come near him. The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had, in fact, seen his older brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle.

देखना

उड़ना

to move lightly

डुबकी

a sea-fish eat it quickly

a screaming sound

चक्कर काटना

And all the morning the whole family had walked about on

tabletop चिढ़ाना

the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting

a high rock/ mountain

him with his cowardice. कायरता

rise Shining; burning

The sun was now ascending the sky, blazing on his ledge

that faced the south. He felt the heat because he had not

Sunset

eaten since the previous nightfall. साँझ

Corner

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. He saw his two brothers and his sister lying on the plateau dozing with their heads sunk into their necks. His father was preening the feathers on his white back.

act

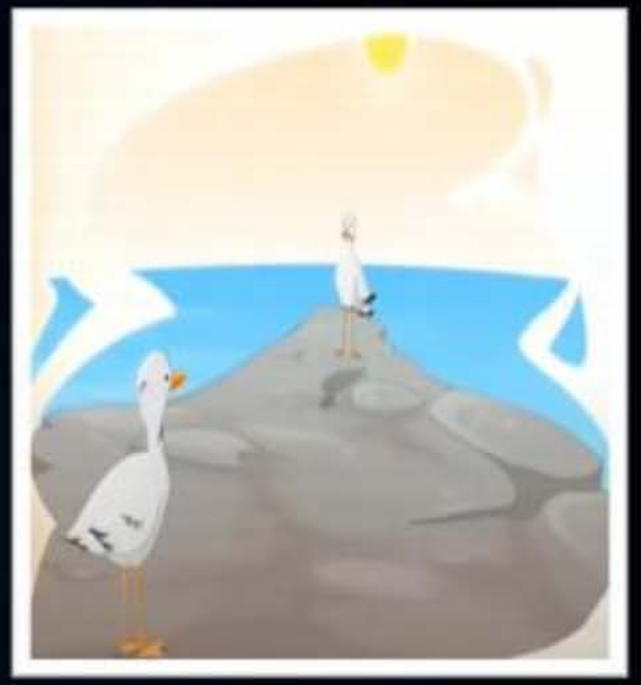
ध्यान

Sleeping

छिपा लेना

Cleaning

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.



MCQs Part I

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What was the young seagull's main fear?

A. The height of the ledge.

B. The depth of the sea below.

C. The strength of the wind.

D. The noise of the waves.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. How did the young seagull's family react to his inability to fly?

A. They ignored him completely.

B. They encouraged him gently.

C. They upbraided and threatened him.

D. They tried to carry him away.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What did the young seagull see his mother doing on the plateau?

A. Teaching his siblings to fly.

B. Preening her feathers.

C. Tearing at a piece of fish.

D. Sleeping in the sun.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Why did the young seagull feel the heat as the sun ascended the sky?

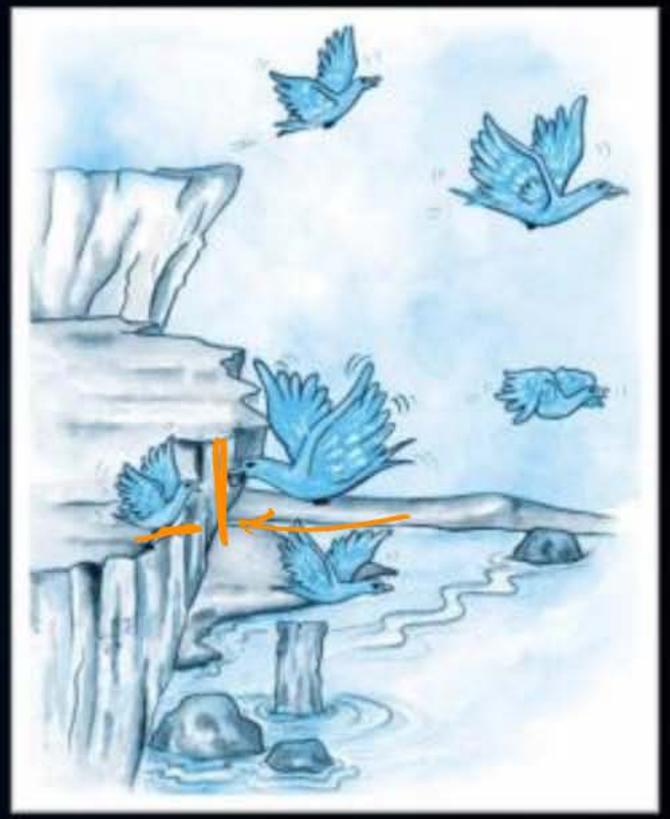
A. Because he was not used to the warmth.

B. Because he had not eaten since the previous nightfall.

C. Because he was sick.

D. Because he was sitting on a rock.

"Ga, ga, ga," he cried begging her to bring him some food. "Gaw-col-ah," she screamed back derisively. But he kept calling plaintively, and after a minute or so he uttered a joyful scream. His mother had picked up a piece of the fish and was flying across to him with it. He leaned out eagerly, tapping the rock with his feet, trying to get nearer to her as she flew across.



But when she was just opposite to him, she halted, her wings motionless, the piece of fish in her beak almost within reach of his beak. 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. He could hear nothing.

But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach, and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards.

to fly quickly

"Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curveting and banking and soaring and diving.

to jump like a horse

to fly with one wing below other

Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly.

appreciate

He was near the sea now, flying straight over it, facing straight out over the ocean. He saw a vast green sea beneath him, with little ridges moving over it and he turned his beak sideways and cawed amusedly.

huge

below

waves of water

in one side

to make a noise

happily

His parents and his brothers and sister had landed on this green flooring ahead of him. They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther.

green sea

to signal

डूब

चिल्लाया

fear

tired

तैरना तारीफ

He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him

pieces

and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.

He had made his first flight.

Message

1. Always believe in yourself.
2. Never give up.
3. Importance of family bonding.

MCQs Part II

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What did the young seagull's mother do when he cried for food?

A. She ignored him.

B. She brought him the fish immediately.

C. She screamed derisively and then flew towards him with the fish.

D. She flew away.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. How did the young seagull react when his mother stopped just opposite to him with the fish?

A. He waited patiently.

B. He dived at the fish in desperation.

C. He flew away.

D. He ignored her.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What did the young seagull feel when he started falling?

A Excitement

B Terror — fear

C Joy

D Indifference

Topic : MCQs

#Q. How did the young seagull's family react when they saw him flying?

A. They ignored him.

B. They scolded him.

C. They flew over and around him, encouraging him.

D. They flew away.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What did the young seagull's family do once he landed on the sea?

A. They flew away from him.

B. They scolded him for being late.

C. They praised him and offered him food.

D. They left him to fend for himself.

Topic : Summary

The Young Seagull's Fear of Flying

The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already learnt to fly. The young Seagull was afraid to fly because of the long stretch and depth of the sea. He thought that his wings will not support him. So, he ran back to his hole on the ledge.

Therefore, the young seagull failed to gather up the courage to fly. His father and mother tried to persuade him to fly. They scolded and even threatened him, that if he does not try to fly, they would let him die of hunger. But the young seagull did not move.

Parents Leave the Young Seagull Alone

Twenty-four hours passed and nobody came near him. All the day, the young seagull watched his parents teaching his brothers and sister how to fly. They were also teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for catching the fish. He had seen his elder brother catch the first herring. When he ate it, his parents praised him. The whole family taunted the young seagull for his cowardice.

The Hungry Seagull

As the time passes, the young seagull could not tolerate the hunger and the heat. He moved closer to the ledge and pretended to fall asleep but nobody took notice of him.

His two brothers and his sister were sleeping, and his father was cleaning his feathers on his white back. Only his mother noticed him. She was standing high on the plateau with a fish. As the young seagull saw the food, he felt more hungry.

The Mother's Trick

Realising his madness for the foot, his mother tried to tempt him with pieces of fish. Initially, she tore the fish in the manner the young seagull loved to eat. This sight maddened the young seagull. Then, the mother flew nearer to him which filled young seagull with joy.

However, the mother stopped near the edge of the ledge. Out of excitement and hunger, the young seagull ran towards his mother and dived for the fish.

The Joy of Flight

Initially, the seagull was scared and screamed with fear who he dived. But soon he felt his wings spread outwards and he began to fly slowly downwards and upwards. He was not afraid of flying.

The Family Celebration

Soon his parents, brothers and sister flew around him. When all the family members landed on the green sea, they called the young seagull to be with them.

As the young seagull landed on the green sea, his legs sank into it. He tried to fly again but he was tired and weak with hunger.

Finally, his feet sank into the green sea, his belly touched it and he was floating on it. The family members praised him and offered him pieces of dog- fish as he had made his first flight

Topic : Glossary

- Brink – edge
- Flap – to move wings up and down
- Muster up – gather
- Plunge – dive
- Desperate – a great need or desire
- Shrilly – sharply
- Upbraiding – rebuking, scolding
- Starve – die of hunger
- Dive – quick and sudden downward movement

- Taunting – a remark made to make someone angry or upset
- Cowardice – lack of courage
- Blazing – shining with great heat, burning
- Dozing – sleeping lightly
- Preening – smoothing feathers with beak, making an effort to maintain feathers
- Scraped – rubbed
- Maddened – made mad
- Whet – to increase interest in it, to sharpen

- Derisively – mockingly, in a manner showing someone that she/he is stupid
- Plaintively – sorrowfully
- Leaned out – bent his body outward
- Tapping – beating lightly
- Halted – stopped
- Monstrous – very fearful
- Seized – caught
- Headlong – Head downwards
- Soaring – Flying upwards

- Dizzy – Confused, spinning, an uncomfortable feeling of spinning around and losing one's balance
- Swooped – Pounced
- Curveting – Moving with an action resembling a horse's leap, leaping like a horse
- Banking – flying with one wing higher than the other
- Commended – praised
- Ridges – wavy edges
- Cawed – to utter a cry
- Beckoning – signaling

- Fright – fear
- Ledge – a narrow horizontal shelf projecting from a wall or (here) a cliff
- (to) skim - to move lightly just above a surface (here, the sea)
- Herring – a soft-finned sea fish

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. Why was the young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think all young birds are afraid to make their first flight, or are some birds more timid than others? Do you think a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first steps?

shy

#Q. "The sight of the food maddened him." What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?

forced

#Q. "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. Have you ever had a similar experience, where your parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try?

#Q. In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act, and a foregone conclusion that it should succeed. In the examples you have given in answer to the previous question, was your success guaranteed, or was it important for you to try, regardless of a possibility of failure?

#Q. How did the Seagull's parents try to make him fly? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. The young Seagull's parents tried hard to make him fly. They scolded him and threatened him to let him starve. Bur the young Seagull could not gain courage to fly. Then, they taunted him. Finally, the young Seagull's mother tempted him with food which resulted in making him fly.

Topic : PYQs

#Q. How did the young Seagull and his family celebrate his first flight? [CBSE 2019]

Ans. When the young Seagull started flying, he was filled with joy and delight. His family came near him and were flying around him. They celebrated the young Scagull's first flight. They screamed with joy and praised him. They even offered him pieces of fish to eat.

#Q. 'The sight of the food maddened him'. What does this suggest? [CBSE 2020]

Ans. The phrase "The sight of the food maddened him" suggests that the young Seagull was very hungry. As the young Seagull was afraid to fly, his parents refused to give him any food. So, when he saw food, his hunger increased.

#Q. The Oxford Dictionary defines 'hangry' as 'bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger'. To what extent can the young seagull's motivation to fly be attributed to being hungry? Support your stance with evidence from the text.

[CBSE Question Bank 2021]

Ans. The seagull's family left him alone and he did not eat anything for the whole day. His hunger overpowered his fear and he motivated him to dive towards his mother holding a fish in her beak.

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. Why was the young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think all young birds are afraid to make their first flight, or are some birds more timid than others? Do you think a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first steps?

Ans. The young Seagull was afraid to fly because he felt that his wings would not support him, and he would fall from a great height.

Yes, when something is done for the first time, it is a bit challenging and fearful. All birds get afraid while raking their first flight. However, it is also a fact that some birds are more timid than the other and consequently take more time to fly.

Just like a bird, a human baby is also afraid of taking the first step and finds it challenging.

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. "The sight of the food maddened him." What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?

Ans. This suggests that the young Seagull was hungry and when he saw food his hunger increased.

It was his hunger that ultimately compelled him to fly. His hunger intensified when he saw his mother tearing up a piece of fish that lay at her feet. He cried to her, begging her to get some food. So, she flew towards him with a fish in her beak and stopped at some distance. Unable to control himself, the young Seagull dived for food. Naturally, his wings spread out and he began to fly.

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

Ans. Unlike his siblings, the poor Seagull could not gather enough courage to take his first flight. Thus, his parents taunted him for being a coward.

They threatened and cajoled him so that he might take his first flight. His mother though it that hunger would make him fly looking for his food. She did this to remove his fear of flight.

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. Have you ever had a similar experience, where your parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try?

Ans. Yes, I had a similar experience while learning to ride a bicycle in class VI. In my initial attempts, I fell down every time and developed a fear of cycling which was difficult to overcome.

My father encouraged me to overcome the fear and helped in learning cycling. He took me on a small hill near our village, made me sit and asked me to put my hands on the handle and feet on the pedals. When he pushed me, the cycle moved and I enjoyed it without fear, which developed my confidence. Thus, I overcame my fear of cycling and started riding a cycle regularly after a litcle practice.

Topic : NCERT Questions

#Q. In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act, and a foregone conclusion that it should succeed. In the examples you have given in answer to the previous question, was your success guaranteed, or was it important for you to try, regardless of a possibility of failure?

Ans. In the example I have given as an answer to the previous question, it is evident that initially my success was not guaranteed. I was afraid of failure and did not even want to try cycling. But I was encouraged and motivated to do so. 1 had to try, regardless of the possibility of failure. I had to put in efforts and hard work. With the willingness and determination, my success became guaranteed as when someone is determined, success is assured.

THANK YOU