**Symbiosis School, Nashik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject : English Language & Literature - Worksheet - 13**

**Lesson 3: Two Stories About Flying**

**1. His First Flight by Liam O’ Flaherty**

**Instructions**

Read the lesson from the pages given and write the new words and meanings in the notebook.

One concept based question is also given at the last. Please write the answer in your own words in the notebook.

**Introduction - Author**

**Liam O' Flaherty**

“**His First Flight**” About the **Author**: Liam O' Flaherty was an Irish novelist and short story **writer**. Theme **of the** Story: The story revolves around the idea that one should bravely face their fears and never give up.

**“The journey of a thousand miles begin with a single step”**

The story by “Liam O’ Flaherty” is an account of a young bird that is afraid to fly for the first time. He believes that his wings would not support him. Despite his younger siblings flying fearlessly with much shorter wings, he could not gather the courage to do the same. He was punished to stay hungry if he did not try. Thus, it was his mother that compelled him to fly by using food as a trap. The lesson reflects how one hesitates to take the first step and that fear is all in the mind. One should trust one’s abilities because “the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself”.

**Word Meanings**

Seagull- a bird that lives near the sea and has short legs, long wings, and white and grey feathers  
Ledge- a narrow horizontal shelf projecting from a wall (or here) a cliff  
Brink- the extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body or water  
Expanse- a wide continuous area of something

Flapped- (of a bird) move (its wings) up and down when flying or preparing to fly  
Muster- gather  
Plunge- jump or dive  
Shrilly- with a high pitched and piercing voice or sound  
Upbraiding- scold

Herring- a soft-finned sea fish  
Devour- eat quickly  
Cackle- laugh in a loud, harsh way  
Cowardice- lack of bravery

Ascending the sky- the act of rising up through the air  
Preening-to tidy and clean its feathers  
Hump- a rounded raised mass of earth or land  
Scrapped- discard

Derisively- in a manner expressing contempt or ridicule.  
Plaintively- sad  
Uttered- make a sound with one’s voice  
Halted- stopped

Monstrous- horrible  
Seized- grab  
Headlong- with the head foremost  
Soaring- flying or rising high in the air  
Swooped- (especially of a bird) move rapidly downwards through the air  
Curvetting- perform a series of jumps on the hind legs

Shrieking- making a high-pitched piercing cry or sound  
Shrilly- loudly and forcefully  
Ridges- a long, narrow hilltop, mountain range, or watershed  
Cawed- utter a caw

Beckoning- gesture

### His First Flight Summary

The story “His First Flight” by “Liam O’ Flaherty” is about a young seagull who is afraid to fly. All his younger siblings despite their much shorter wings flew fearlessly while he could not gather the courage to trust his own wings. The young seagull became sad when he saw his parents perfecting his younger siblings in the art of flying. His parents scold and taunt him for not even trying. They even call him a “coward”. They tell him a lot to at least try and also threaten him to leave him alone and hungry if he does not. The following day, he is left in isolation and upon feeling hungry; he tries to seek the attention of his family members. Only his mother, who is withering a fish in an attempt to eat it, notices his son. The young seagull cries out of starvation hoping his mother would help. On seeing his mother come to him with the fish, he gets excited. But on noticing that his mother stopped mid-way, he gets maddened out of hunger and takes a dive at the fish, forgetting for a moment that he is afraid to fly. Finally, he took his first flight. All the family members celebrate his victory by cheering and dancing around him. He also attempts at floating in the sea that he was once afraid of. Thus, he overcomes his fear and realises that it is all in the mind.

**Question based on Concept**

Writa a short composition on your initial attempt at learning a skill. You could describe the challenges of learning to ride a bicycle or learning to swim. Make it

as humorous as possible.







