**Symbiosis School, Nashik.**

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

**Subject : English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 14**

**Lesson 3 : Two Stories About Flying**

### 2. The Black Aeroplane by Frederick Forsyth

### Instructions

### The grammar based exercises are given at the end of the worksheet. Solve them in your English notebook.

### Textual question answers and answers of these grammar exercises will follow in the next worksheet.

### Frederick Forsyth is an English author, [journalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalist), former spy, and occasional political commentator.

### Introduction

The lesson “Black Aeroplane” by Frederick Forsyth reflects on how one’s judgement gets distorted due to fantasizing and how it creates problems. In this chapter, the narrator is a pilot who is so eager to meet his family and have a good breakfast that he takes the wrong decision of facing the storm instead of doing the right thing. Miraculously, he somehow manages to escape with the help of a mysterious aeroplane.

**Word Meanings**

Compass- instrument for telling direction

Runway- a strip of hard ground along which aircraft take off and land

Frightened- terrified  
Followed- chased  
Obedient- one who obeys  
Glad- happy

Radar- a system for detecting the presence, direction, distance, and speed of aircraft, ships, and other objects, by sending out pulses of radio waves which are reflected off the object back to the source  
Strangely- in a strange manner

**Black Aeroplane Summary**

The story “Black Aeroplane” is about a pilot who feels happy and contended to fly over a city that is sleeping (at the night time). He is flying from Paris to London. While taking his flight, he dreams about the long holiday with his family. He also fantasizes about the scrumptious breakfast he would have upon landing. As soon as he crosses Paris, he gets a look of the dark clouds that were a sign of the upcoming storm. The right decision would have been to turn back to Paris for the sake of safety. But he being overshadowed by his dreams and not wanting to delay them, risks the life of his passengers and heads straight into the storm. Everything gets dark, he is unable to see, all his direction instruments stopped functioning and he lost control of the plane. When all hope was lost, he saw another plane whose pilot was more than willing to rescue them. The author was panicking as there was very less amount of fuel left. The anonymous pilot guided them out of the storm and disappeared as soon as they saw light.  Upon landing, when he asks the lady in the control room about the other pilot, he is left in shock when she says that his was the only plane in the sky.

**The Black Aeroplane Questions and Answers**

Q1. “I’ll take the risk.” What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?

A. The “risk” here refers to not doing the right thing, which is flying back to Paris when he came to know about the storm. Despite being aware of the bad weather, the pilot headed straight into the storm and risked the lives of his fellow passengers. The pilot’s decision making was clouded by his wish to meet his family. He so desperately wanted to be with his family and have that English breakfast he had been dreaming of all day, that he took the risk of not going back.

 Q2. Describe the narrator’s experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.

A. The narrator was frightened as he lost control of the plane. He felt helpless as the compass and other instruments had stopped working. Nothing outside the aeroplane was visible when suddenly in the midst of nowhere, an unknown plane was visible and the pilot was eager to help him. The narrator was panicking because there was very less fuel left but somehow, he managed to escape the storm with the help of the strange pilot who he could not thank.

Q3. Why does the narrator say, “I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota…”?

A. The narrator had landed at an unknown place as his compass and radar had stopped functioning in the storm. He was not scared to leave the plane unattended and go to the control centre to inquire about the mysterious plane which had helped him out of the storm.

Q4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

A. The woman in the control centre looked at the narrator strangely when he asked about the other pilot that helped him escape the storm. This is because there was no other plane in the sky during such bad weather.

Q5. Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely? Discuss this among yourselves and give reasons for your answer.

A. It was the pilot’s own conscience which helped him out of the storm. There was no other plane out on that stormy night. So, probably, he was hallucianting. It was his own capability as a pilot which led him out of that black cloud.

**Black Aeroplane Grammar Exercise**

**Now, try to guess the meanings of the word ‘black’ in the sentences given below. Check the meanings in the dictionary and find out whether you have guessed right.**

1. Go and have a bath; your hands and face are absolutely black. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
2. The taxi-driver gave Ratan a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
3. The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
4. Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter’s black comedy. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
5. Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in black. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
6. Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Match the phrases given under Column A with their meanings given under Column B:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | B |
| Fly a flag   1. Fly into rage 2. Fly along 3. Fly high   Fly the coop | * Move quickly/suddenly * Be successful * Display a flag on a long pole * Escape from a place * Become suddenly very angry |

**We know that the word ‘fly’ (of birds/insects) means to move through air using wings. Tick the words which have the same or nearly the same meaning.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| swoop | Flit | Paddle | Flutter | ascend |
| float | Ride | Skim | Sink | Dart |
| Hover | Glide | Descend | Soar | Shoot |
| Spring | Stay | Fall | Sail | Flap |







