

Two Stories of Flying

His First Flight

Answer the following questions:

1. 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?

a) The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was its first flight. It is a well-known fact that doing something for the first time is challenging. Therefore, all young birds must be afraid to make their first flights. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take its first step.

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

a) The young seagull was very hungry. It was this hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly.

Its hunger only intensified when it saw its mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her

feet. It cried to her, begging her to get some food. When its mother came towards it with

food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway.

It wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger

any longer, it dived at the food in its mother's beak. At that moment, his hunger

overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff.

Finally, this plunge

was followed by the natural reaction of its body, i.e., to fly.

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

a) The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when it saw its brothers and sisters flying, and

its parents helping and teaching them, it could not gather enough courage to make that

first flight. That is why its father and mother were calling to it shrilly and scolding it. They threatened to let it starve on its ledge if it did not fly. They did so because they wanted it to leave its fear behind and learn to fly.

1. Have you ever had a similar experience, where your parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try? Discuss this in pairs or groups.

a) This question requires you to use your own perspective as well as your analytical skills.

The answer to the question would vary from one person to another. It is suggested that you read the text carefully and try attempting it on your own.

1. 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?

a) Attempt your own answer.