

## CHAPTER: *Two Stories About Flying*

### PART 1: *His First Flight* – Liam O’Flaherty

#### Summary:

This is the story of a young seagull who is afraid to fly. His siblings have already learned, but he hesitates due to fear. The story is about **overcoming fear** and taking the **first leap of faith**. In the end, hunger and a little push from his family force him to fly—and he realizes he can do it.

#### Character Traits:

| Character             | Traits                            | Examples/Quotes  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Young Seagull</b>  | Afraid, hesitant, insecure        | “He felt certain that his wings would never support him.”    |
| <b>Mother Seagull</b> | Caring, clever, motivating        | She tempts him with food to encourage him to fly.            |
| <b>Father Seagull</b> | Strict, supportive in a tough way | Observes from a distance, letting the bird learn on his own. |
| <b>Siblings</b>       | Confident, skilled, independent   | Already flying, dive-bombing for fish.                       |

#### Important Themes/Ideas:

- **Fear and Courage** – The bird’s fear is natural, but courage comes when he takes a chance.
- **Parenting and Growth** – His family does not rescue him but lets him face fear and succeed.
- **Self-discovery** – He discovers his ability only when he tries.

#### Frequently Asked CBSE Questions:

- **Character-based:** Describe the traits of the young seagull.
- **Value-based:** What do we learn about fear from the young seagull’s experience?
- **Extract-based:** Inference questions from the paragraph where he finally flies.

### PART 2: *The Black Aeroplane* – Frederick Forsyth

## Summary:

A pilot is flying home at night in a storm with low fuel. He suddenly sees a mysterious black airplane guiding him to safety. After landing, he finds out no other plane was flying that night. The story ends with suspense—was the black plane real or imaginary?

## Character Traits:

| Character               | Traits                                  | Examples/Quotes   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Narrator (Pilot)</b> | Responsible, brave, puzzled             | “I was happy to go back to England... but everything was dark.” |
| <b>Mysterious Pilot</b> | Helpful, unknown, possibly supernatural | No radio contact, guides him safely without explanation.        |

## Important Themes/Ideas:

- **Mystery and Faith** – Sometimes help comes from unknown sources.
- **Decision-making under pressure** – He enters the storm despite the risk.
- **Hope and Guidance** – The black aeroplane is a symbol of hope in crisis.

## Frequently Asked CBSE Questions:

- **Value-based:** What lesson does the pilot learn from the incident?
- **Imaginative:** Who could the mysterious pilot be?
- **Inference-based:** Why does the narrator call the other plane “mysterious”?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM BOTH STORIES:

|          |                            |  |
|----------|----------------------------|--|
| Concept  | His First Flight           | Black Aeroplane                            |
| Conflict | Internal – fear of flying  | External – storm, low fuel, lost direction |
| Support  | Family support             | Mysterious stranger                        |
| Growth   | Realizes his own potential | Learns to trust unseen help                |
| Message  | Conquer fear to grow       | Help can come unexpectedly                 |