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| 1. Fly a flag | (a) Move quickly/suddenly |
| 2. Fly into rage | (b) Be successful |
| 3. Fly along | (c) Display a flag on a long pole |
| 4. Fly high | (d) Escape from a place |
| 5. Fly the coop | (e) Become suddenly very angry |

Ans. 1. (c), 2. (e), 3. (a), 4. (b), 5. (d)

Story I His First Flight

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 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. He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.

- (i) What was the young seagull afraid of?
 (a) Flying (b) Swimming
 (c) Running (d) Hiding
- (ii) What did the young seagull feel about his wings?
 (a) They are too heavy
 (b) They are too light
 (c) They would never support him
 (d) They are perfect
- (iii) Pick out the word in the extract that means the same as 'verge'.
 (a) Ledge (b) Brink
 (c) Flap (d) Bent
- (iv) What does the phrase 'on his ledge' signify the extract?
 (a) That the seagull is the owner of the ledge
 (b) That the ledge is his prized possession
 (c) That the seagull wants to own the ledge
 (d) That the seagull lives on a narrow flat piece of rock, termed as ledge

- Ans. (i) (a) Flying
 (ii) (c) They would never support him
 (iii) (b) Brink
 (iv) (d) That the seagull lives on a narrow flat piece of rock, termed as ledge

2 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 elder brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle. And all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau mid-way down the opposite cliff taunting him for his cowardice.

- (i) For how much time has the young seagull been alone?
 (a) For 45 minutes
 (b) For twenty four hours
 (c) For three days
 (d) For one week
- (ii) Why was the whole family taunting the young seagull?
 (a) For his foolish act (b) For his lying
 (c) For his bravery (d) For his cowardice
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'consume'?
 (a) Devour (b) Horrifying
 (c) Cackle (d) Cliff
- (iv) What does 'his cowardice' in the extract signify?
 (a) Courage of fight (b) Weakness of wings
 (c) Fear of flying (d) Act of taunting

- Ans. (i) (b) For twenty four hours
 (ii) (d) For his cowardice
 (iii) (a) Devour
 (iv) (c) Fear of flying

3 He stopped slowly and...



Story I His First Flight

1 How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly?

Ans. The young seagull was afraid of flying. Even after several tries, he was unable to fly. Except him all his brothers and sister were expert in flying high.

He always relied on the food that his parents brought back from their flights.

So to make him fly they screamed, scolded and threatened to let him alone and starve on the ledge unless he flew away. They did not offer him food and let him look them while having their food.

2 Why did the young seagull feel very miserable on the ledge?

Ans. The young seagull felt very miserable on the ledge as he was alone and his family had already flown away. He was feeling very hungry and had nothing to eat. His condition was worsening because he could not even dive for fish.

3 What had the young seagull watched his parents doing the day before?

Ans. The day before, the young seagull had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting in the art of flying and teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish.

He had in fact, seen his brothers and sister enjoying swimming, catching the fish to feed themselves.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

Story I His First Flight

1 "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's parents threaten him and cajole him to fly? Compare it with your experiences when your parents encouraged you.

Ans. I can compare the situation with the way my parents cajole and sometimes pressurise me to focus on my study. Excess of either love or pressure will not do well for anyone. One will be spoiled or one can become stubborn. So a mix of carrot and stick always gives the desired results. Probably seagull's parents have learnt this lesson through their experience. That is why they are

following the carrot and stick policy. There can be variety of examples of our lives, like learning to ride a bicycle, or getting goose-bumps on a ferry wheel, or the apprehension while travelling alone for the first time. But parent's pressure can give us a boost to excel in our lives though it seems bad many a times but the result can be seen with the example of the young seagull.

2 How did the mother make the young seagull come out of his fear and teach him the art of flying?

Or How did the seagull family help the young seagull overcome his fear and fly?

Or Why was the young seagull afraid of flying?
What compelled the seagull to finally fly?

Or Describe the tricks used by the seagull family to help the young seagull overcome his fear and fly.

Ans. The young seagull was afraid of flying because he thought that his wings won't support him and he would drown.

When his family left him alone on the ledge, he felt alone and was very hungry. They tried hard to make him fly but he never showed the courage to try. His mother knowingly tore a piece of fish near him and flew across to him with it. She came close to him but did not go nearer.

Already mad by hunger, he dived at the fish but fell into space. After sometime, his wings spread outwards and he began to fly. His family landed on the sea ahead of him. They beckoned (attracted) him so he landed on the sea and began to sink into water but when his belly touched the water, he floated without any fear and difficulty.

3 Do you think that the seagull's family loved him? Justify their attitude towards him?

Ans. The young seagull had two brothers and a sister. His parents flew with them to leave him alone on the ledge as he could not muster (gather) up the courage to fly with them. His parents could have fed him, but they refused to give him any food. They wanted him to fly and dive for his food. They threatened to let him starve. They did so because they loved him. The parents were right in what they did because they wanted to teach him the importance of confidence and self-reliance. One can't depend on one's parents all one's life to be fed. Thus, it was important for him to learn to fly, dive and search his own food.

So, the attitude the seagull family showed to him was actually their love, care and concern for him.

4 Why was the young seagull pretending to be asleep? What did he actually observe while doing so?

Ans. The young seagull came to the brink of the ledge. He stood there on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing. He closed his one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. He did so because he wanted to know whether they were interested in him or not but he observed that his family was not noticing him. He saw his brothers and sister lying on the plateau (elevated plain). They were dozing (sleeping). His father was preening the feathers on his white back. Only his mother was looking at him. Now and then, she tore a piece of fish that lay at her feet. Then she scrapped each side of the back on the rock.

5 Fear and lack of confidence stop one from learning new things. Do you agree? How did these two traits of the young seagull make him coward? How did he overcome these shortcomings?

Ans. Yes, it is true that fear and lack of confidence stop one from learning new things as in the story, the young seagull lacked the value of courage and confidence in his character. He was too scared of flying. His family tried hard to make him fly but he refused to do so because of his fear of sinking in the seawater. They even scolded him for his cowardice. They tried to tempt him with food but he was not willing to learn flying. Once he dived, his fear disappeared and he enjoyed his first flight. It is a fact that unless we try for something and overcome our fear, we can't learn anything. Confidence and motivation are two most important traits that make any learning possible. These traits also give a person courage to face any situation and he can overcome his fear.

Story II The Black Aeroplane

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