

Class X - English

Words and Expressions - II

Two Stories about Flying

# CBSE NOTES

## Two Stories about Flying - Challenge Worksheet

*Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.*



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

## 1. Analyze the psychological transformation of the young seagull in 'His First Flight'. How does fear evolve into courage?

**Hint:** Consider the role of external stimuli (hunger, family behavior) and internal conflict in the seagull's decision to fly.

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

## 2. Compare and contrast the themes of 'His First Flight' and 'Black Aeroplane'. How do both stories approach the concept of overcoming challenges?

**Hint:** Think about the nature of the challenges faced by the protagonists and the outcomes of their experiences.

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## 3. Evaluate the role of the family in the young seagull's first flight. Was their method of encouragement effective or harsh?

**Hint:** Consider the balance between motivation and coercion in the family's actions.

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

## 4. Discuss the significance of the black aeroplane in the story 'Black Aeroplane'. What does it symbolize?

**Hint:** Reflect on the aeroplane's unexplained nature and its impact on the protagonist's survival.

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## 5. Imagine you are the young seagull. Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts before and after your first flight.

**Hint:** Focus on the emotional and psychological changes experienced by the seagull.

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

## 6. Critically assess the ending of 'Black Aeroplane'. Is the mystery of the black aeroplane resolved satisfactorily?

**Hint:** Consider the author's purpose in leaving the aeroplane's identity unexplained.

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## 7. How does 'His First Flight' illustrate the concept of 'tough love'? Provide examples from the text.

**Hint:** Look at the family's actions and their outcomes on the young seagull.

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

**8. In 'Black Aeroplane', how does the pilot's experience challenge our understanding of reality and the supernatural?**

**Hint:** Think about the inexplicable elements of the aeroplane's appearance and guidance.

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**9. Discuss the importance of setting in both 'His First Flight' and 'Black Aeroplane'. How does it contribute to the stories' themes?**

**Hint:** Analyze how the physical environments reflect the protagonists' emotional states.

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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

**10. Create an alternative ending for 'Black Aeroplane' where the mystery of the black aeroplane is explained. Justify your ending.**

**Hint:** Consider how to balance mystery with a satisfying explanation that fits the story's context.

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Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 1. Analyze the psychological transformation of the young seagull in 'His First Flight'. How does fear evolve into courage?

**Solution:** The young seagull's journey from fear to courage is a metaphor for personal growth. Initially, his fear stems from self-doubt and the unknown. The turning point is his hunger, which overrides his fear, illustrating how necessity can drive change. His family's taunting serves as a catalyst, showing how external pressures can influence internal transformation.

## 2. Compare and contrast the themes of 'His First Flight' and 'Black Aeroplane'. How do both stories approach the concept of overcoming challenges?

**Solution:** Both stories revolve around overcoming fears but in different contexts. 'His First Flight' is about conquering self-doubt through necessity and familial pressure, while 'Black Aeroplane' deals with an external, mysterious challenge that tests the protagonist's faith and resilience. The former is a literal flight, symbolizing personal achievement, whereas the latter is metaphorical, representing guidance in dire situations.

## 3. Evaluate the role of the family in the young seagull's first flight. Was their method of encouragement effective or harsh?

**Solution:** The family's method was a mix of taunting and strategic withholding of food, which can be seen as harsh but effective. It highlights the tough love approach, where the seagull's survival instincts are triggered by hunger, leading to his first flight. This method may not be universally applicable but worked in this context by addressing the seagull's immediate need.

## 4. Discuss the significance of the black aeroplane in the story 'Black Aeroplane'. What does it symbolize?

**Solution:** The black aeroplane symbolizes hope, guidance, and the supernatural or divine intervention in times of crisis. Its mysterious appearance and disappearance suggest that help can come from unexpected sources, emphasizing faith and the unknown. It challenges the protagonist's reliance on technology and rationality, introducing an element of mystery and spirituality.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 5. Imagine you are the young seagull. Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts before and after your first flight.

**Solution:** Before the flight, the entry would express fear, loneliness, and frustration at being unable to fly. After the flight, it would reflect joy, pride, and a newfound sense of freedom and belonging. This contrast highlights the emotional journey from self-doubt to self-confidence.

## 6. Critically assess the ending of 'Black Aeroplane'. Is the mystery of the black aeroplane resolved satisfactorily?

**Solution:** The unresolved mystery of the black aeroplane is intentional, leaving readers to ponder the nature of the help received. It serves as a narrative device to emphasize themes of faith and the unexplained. Some may find it unsatisfying due to the lack of closure, while others may appreciate the open-endedness that invites interpretation.

## 7. How does 'His First Flight' illustrate the concept of 'tough love'? Provide examples from the text.

**Solution:** The seagull's family employs tough love by refusing to feed him and taunting him, forcing him to overcome his fear. This approach, though seemingly cruel, is effective as it pushes the seagull to take the necessary step to fly. The mother's tactic of showing food but moving away is a clear example of tough love, balancing care with challenge.

## 8. In 'Black Aeroplane', how does the pilot's experience challenge our understanding of reality and the supernatural?

**Solution:** The pilot's encounter with the black aeroplane blurs the line between reality and the supernatural. The aeroplane's sudden appearance and disappearance, without any trace, challenge rational explanations, suggesting a supernatural intervention. This experience forces the pilot (and readers) to consider possibilities beyond the tangible world.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

## 9. Discuss the importance of setting in both 'His First Flight' and 'Black Aeroplane'. How does it contribute to the stories' themes?

**Solution:** In 'His First Flight', the cliff setting emphasizes isolation and the vastness of the challenge, mirroring the seagull's internal struggle. In 'Black Aeroplane', the stormy sky represents danger and the unknown, enhancing the tension and mystery. Both settings amplify the protagonists' challenges and triumphs, reinforcing the themes of fear and overcoming adversity.

## 10. Create an alternative ending for 'Black Aeroplane' where the mystery of the black aeroplane is explained. Justify your ending.

**Solution:** An alternative ending could reveal the black aeroplane as a drone operated by a retired pilot who monitors the area for emergencies. This explanation maintains the theme of unexpected help while providing closure. It aligns with modern technology, offering a plausible, realistic resolution that still honors the story's suspenseful tone.



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