

## (11) THE BLACK AEROPLANE

(1) Thinking about the text:

(1) "I'll take the risk". What is the risk?

Why does the narrator take it?

Ans. A huge storm was brewing up and the narrator was keen to reach his home to spend his holiday with his family. So he decided to fly through the storm as he did not want to miss the chance to meet his family at breakfast. Thus, he took risk even when the visibility was almost zero in the storm.

(2) Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.

Ans. As the pilot entered the storm, his plane started jumping and twisting. He could not see anything outside the plane as it was black. When he looked at compass and



other instruments, they had stopped to function due to storm. It was a terrible and fearsome experience for him. The fuel tank was almost empty and he could not fly more than ten minutes.

Then he saw another black aeroplane by his side and the pilot signalled him to follow. It was a surprise for the narrator as the other black plane was having no light. He followed him without any choice and landed safely on the runway.

(3) Why does the narrator say, "I landed and was not sorry to away from the old Dakota..."?

Ans. The narrator describes the flying the old Dakota was not so sophisticated and he had a very horrific experience flying it. So he was happy rather than being sorry after coming out of the plane and took a sigh of relief when it landed safely.

(4) What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

Ans. The woman in the control centre looked at the narrator strangely as the narrator



asked him about the black aeroplane and she saw no one except the narrator's in the sky during the storm. Even the radar showed only the narrator's plane that night in the sky.

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

Ans: It is a very difficult to say about the unknown pilot who helped the narrator: as no other plane was seen in the radar. But probably it was the narrator himself that helped him to overcome the fear in the storm. In that fearsome situation, he might have been hallucinating. He himself was a good pilot and brave enough who helped himself land safely.

Thinking about language.

(1) Go and have a bath, your hands and face are absolutely black.

Ans: It means that the face and hands are dark because of dust and dirt.



(2) The taxi-driver gave Ratan a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green.

Ans. Here, 'black' means an angry look.

(3) The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity.

Ans. Here, 'blackest' means darkest and cruellest crime against humanity.

(4) Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy.

Ans. 'Black' here refers to dark and gloomy comedy.

(5) Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell them on black.

Ans. Here 'black' means to sell the goods at a higher price!

(6) Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue.

Ans. Here, 'black' means that the criminal suffered excessive beating at the hands of the villagers.



(11)

A

B

(1) Fly a flag.

(c) display a flag on a long pole.

(2) Fly into rage.

(e) become suddenly very angry.

(3) Fly along.

(a) move quickly/suddenly

(4) Fly high.

(b) be successful.

(5) Fly the coop.

(d) escape from a place.