

## Character sketch of Young Seagull

- He was afraid of flying
- He lacked courage
- He was underconfident
- He thought his wings wouldn't support him.
- Taunted & criticised by his parents and siblings.
- He wasn't given food since the previous nightfall
- He attempted to fly but couldn't gather up courage
- Finally maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish.
- learnt that flying is the natural instinct of a bird & his means of survival.



## Thinking About the Text

1. Why was the young seagull afraid of 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 step?

Ans: The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was his first flight and he feared of falling and hurting himself. He thought that his wings would not support him while flying. All birds must be afraid to make their first flight. Similarly, a human baby is also afraid of taking the first step and find it challenging when he learns to crawl or stand without help.

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

Ans: The young seagull was very hungry. His hunger intensified when he saw his mother tearing fish.



He coiled and begged her to feed. When his mother came towards him, he was very happy but she stopped at midway. He was unable to resist hunger. At that moment, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff. Finally, by the natural reaction of his body, it flew.

8. <sup>10</sup> They were beckoning to him, calling sweetly. Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and coo to him to fly?

Ans. Seagull's parents had talked everything but he was reluctant to fly due to fear of falling down. He looked at his brothers and sisters but wouldn't make any efforts. That's why the whole family had left him alone and threatened and cooed him to come but every effort went in vain.

4. 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.



Ans: Yes, I have a similar experience while learning to ride a bicycle in class III. In my initial attempts, I fell down everytime and developed a fear of cycling which was difficult to overcome. My father encouraged me and helped me then he said to ride the cycle and assured me that he will be holding the back cycle but when I fell safe, I saw that I was riding alone without his help and started riding a cycle after a few practices.

6. In case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act and a foregone conclusion that it should succeed.

Ans: We face some problems in the initial stage while learning new skills. Due to the fear of failure, we hesitate to perform a task or to do something new in case of the seagull, its parents coaxed him to fly. In example, I will say when I was coaxed by my father to learn cycling. By this situation we can practice makes a man perfect.