

Two STORIES ABOUT FLYING

① His First Flight ~ Liam O'Flaherty

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Thinking about the Text

1) Why was the young seagull afraid to 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 steps?

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.

→ Yes, it is natural that doing something for the first time is a bit challenging and fearful. 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 up without support.

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. It was the hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly. Its hunger intensified when it saw its mother tearing at a piece of fish that lay at her feet. It cried to her, begging her to get some food. When its mother came towards it with food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she ~~towards it with food in her beak~~, it ~~screamed with~~ stopped midway.

→ At that movement, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff.

→ Finally, this plunge was followed by the natural reaction of its body to fly.

3) "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and coo to him to fly?

Ans → Seagull's parents had tried 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 too scared to try? Discuss this in pairs or groups.

Yes, I had a similar experience while learning to ride a bicycle in class at UKG. In my initial attempts, I fell down everytime

and developed a fear of cycling which was difficult to overcome.

→ No amount of provoking and cajoling could let me try it again, but my father encouraged me to overcome the fear and helped me as he was adamant on my learning cycling. He held my cycle from back and I started peddling and it sped down and I enjoyed it without fear which developed my confidence. Thus, I overcame my fear of cycling and started riding a cycle after a few practice.

5) In the case of a bird flying, it seems a natural act, and a foregone conclusion that it should succeed. In the examples you have given in Answer to the previous question, was your success guaranteed, or was it important for you to try regardless of a possibility of failure?

We face some problems in the initial stage while learning new skill. Due to the fear of failure, we hesitate to perform a task or to do something new. In case of the seagull his parents coaxed him to fly. In the example I have given by my father to learn cycling as it was very important for me to overcome my fear.

Yes, my success was guaranteed because if some one is determined to do something then success is determined to do something then success is assured. Moreover as said, practice, makes a man perfect.

CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG SEAGULL

- In this story, young seagull comes across as a scared bird which refuses to learn flying.
- The young seagull is stubborn as it does not listen to repeated requests from its parents.
- When its mother refuses to provide food, young seagull learns flying for the sake of hunger.