

H/W
13/05/21

(II)

The Black Aeroplane

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Introduction to the Author -

Fredrick Forsyth was born on 25 Aug 1938. He is an English author, novelist, and occasional political commentator. Before becoming a journalist he joined the RAF and was a jet fighter pilot.

Theme of the story -

→ "Black Aeroplane" is a story based on a surprising event that happened with the narrator. The story vividly depicts the mystery and suspense. It describes quite a unique but mysterious experience during his flight from Paris to London. It seems uncredible to the scientific world but we can't deny the possibility of such mysterious happenings.

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 author 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 the risk even when the visibility was almost zero in storm.

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

Ans → As the pilot (author) 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 terrible and fearsome experience for him. The fuel tank was almost empty with the lifespan of 10 minutes. 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 walk away from the old Dakota...?"

Ans → Segall He was delighted to land safely out of dark stormy clouds, therefore, he was not sorry to walk away from his plane. He felt bad when he was not able to thank his guide his mentor who saved him from frightening situations, but he was so happy after landing that he didn't feel sorry for not being able to thank the guide pilot.

4) What made the woman in the Control Centre look at the narrator strangely?

The woman in the Control Centre looked at the narrator strangely because 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 navigator's plane that night in the sky.

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

Ans → It is very difficult to say about the unknown pilot who helped the navigator. But probably it was the navigator himself that helped him to overcome the fear in the storm as no other plane was seen in the radar except the navigator's Dakota plane. 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

▷ Go and have a bath; your hands and face are absolutely black. dark.

- 2) The taxi-driver gave Rat an a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green. ~~look~~ angry
- 3) The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity. ~~blackest~~ darkest & cruellest angry look crime against humanity
- 4) Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy. ~~black comedy~~ gloomy comedy.
- 5) Some times shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in black. ~~sell goods at a higher price.~~ higher price.
- 6) Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue. ~~criminal, badly beaten by~~ at the hands of the villagers

[A]

[B]

- 1) Fly a flag - display a flag on a long pole.
- 2) Fly into a rage - become suddenly very angry.

3) Fly along - Move quickly / suddenly

4) Fly high - Be successful

5) Fly the coop - Escape from a place