**Two Stories About Flying Part-I**

***Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.***

**1. He stepped slowly out to the brink of the ledge, and standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing; he closed one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. Still they took no notice of him.**

(a) What did the young seagull do?

(b) What was the seagull afraid of?

(c) Why did he close his eyes one-by-one?

(d) What were his brothers and sisters doing?

**Ans**. (a) The young seagull pretended to fall asleep on the brink of the ledge.

(b) The seagull was afraid to fly.

(c) He pretended to sleep.

(d) They were sleeping carefree

**2. He felt certain that his wings would never support him, so he bent his head and ran ways back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.**

(a) Who does He’ refer to in the first sentence?

(b) Why did he run back to the hole instead of trying to fly?

(c) Where did he sleep at night?

(d) Why was the young seagull afraid to fly?

**Ans**. (a) The young seagull.

 (b) He thought his wings would not support him so he did not try to fly.

(c) He slept at night in a hole under the ledge.

(d) The young seagull thought that his wings were too weak to support him so he was afraid to fly.

**3. His father and mother had come around him calling him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on the ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him, he could not move.**

(a) How did his parents try to make him fly?

(b) What was the effect of their efforts?

(c) What does the passage reflect on the young seagull?

(d) How was the young seagull threatened by his parents initially when he did not fly?

**Ans**. (a) First, they invited him encouragingly. Then scolded and threatened to leave him alone to starve unless he flew away.

(b) All their efforts failed but he did not fly.

(c) He was a coward.

(d) First his parents encouraged him to fly but later on, they even threatened to let him starve if he did not fly.

**4. The day before, all day he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sisters, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had, in fact, seen his older brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle.**

(a) Who is He’ in the above lines?

(b) Who trained the brothers and sister in the art of flying?

(c) What does the cackle raised by the parents show?

(d) Why do you think all parental acts are for the betterment of the children?

**Ans**. (a) The young seagull.

(b) Their parents.

(c) This shows that they were quite happy.

(d) All parents wish that their children should be successful in life. Their acts are directed towards this aim.

**5. His father was preening the feathers on his white back. Only his mother was looking at him. She was standing on a little high hump on the plateau, her white breast thrust forward. Now and again, she tore. at a piece of a fish that lay at her feet and then scrapped each side of her beak on the rock. The sight of the food maddened him. How he loved to tear food that way, scrapping his beak now and again to what it.**

(a) Why do you think the mother was eating fish in full view of her little one?

(b) Who was looking at hint?

(c) What was the effect of sight of food on him?

(d) Do you think hunger was a good motivation for the young seagull in his first flight?

**Ans**. (a) She wanted to tempt him and then exploit the situation to make him fly.

(b) His mother.

(c) It maddened the young seagull for he was very hungry.

(d) Yes, I think so. Maddened by hunger, he lived to snatch a piece of fish and started flying.

**6. He waited a moment in surprise, wondering why she did not come nearer, and then, maddened by hunger he dived at the fish. With a loud scream, he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still he could hear nothing.**

(a) Who is ‘she’ in the above passage?

(b) Why did he dive at the fish?

(c) Why did his heart stand still?

(d) How did the seagull express his excitement when he saw his mother bringing food to him?

**Ans**. (a) The young seagull’s mother.

(b) Because he was hungry.

(c) This was because of fear.

(d) He left out and tapped the rock with his feet expressing his joy and excitement.

**7. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid. He just felt a hit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. He uttered a joyous scream and flapped them again. He soared higher.**

(a) When the young seagull spread his wings but did not flap them, how did he feel?

(b) How did the young seagull feel when he started flying?

(c) Why did he utter a joyous scream?

(d) How did his family welcome seagull’s flight?

**Ans**. (a) A hit dizzy but not afraid.

(b) Joyous and no more afraid.

(c) He was thrilled to see that he could fly.

(d) Seagull’s family members came near him and encouraged him by flying over and around him screaming in joy.