

UDAAN 2026

English (Language & Literature)

Lecture - 04

Two Stories About Flying :

His First Flight

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First Flight : Prose



Topics to be covered



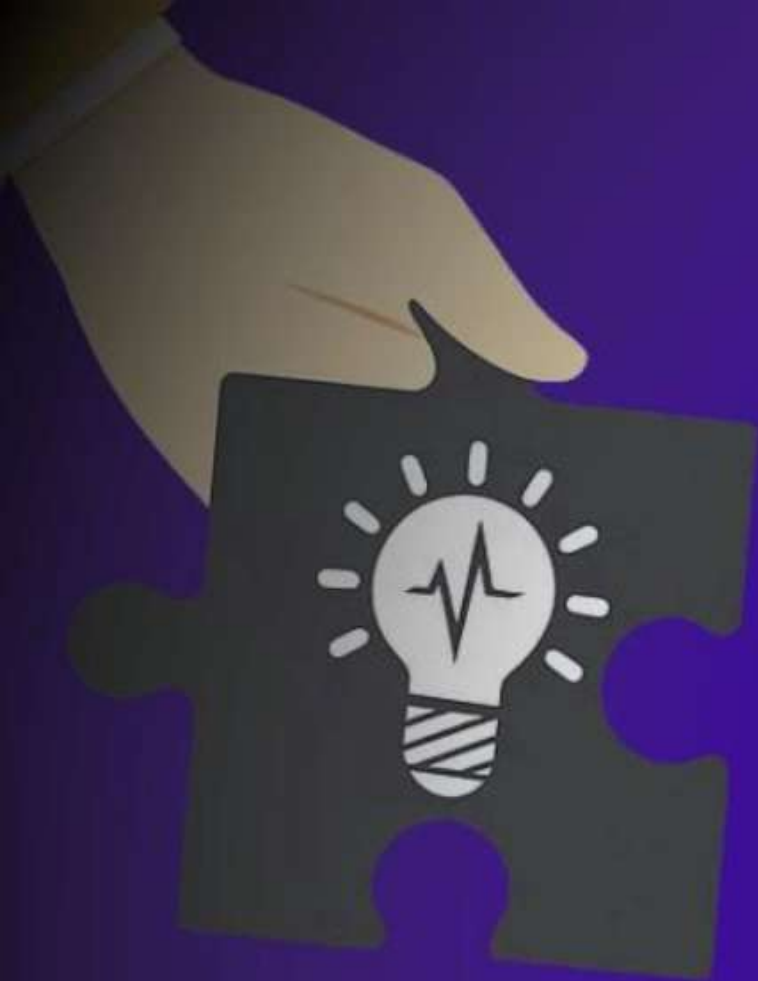
Warm-up Game



Two Stories About Flying : His First Flight



NCERT Exercise and Quiz



Game Time!



Four pictures, one word!



Four pictures, one word!



farmer



architect



tailor



journalist

Arrange the following words into a coherent sentence:

"the / team / working / is / project / on / an / innovative"

- (A) The team to working is a project innovative.
- (B) The team is working on innovative an project. ✗
- (C) The innovative project is working on an team. ✗
- ✓ (D) The team is working on an innovative project.

What is the antonym of "elated"?

opposite

happy

(A) Happy

✓ (B) Depressed

(C) Excited

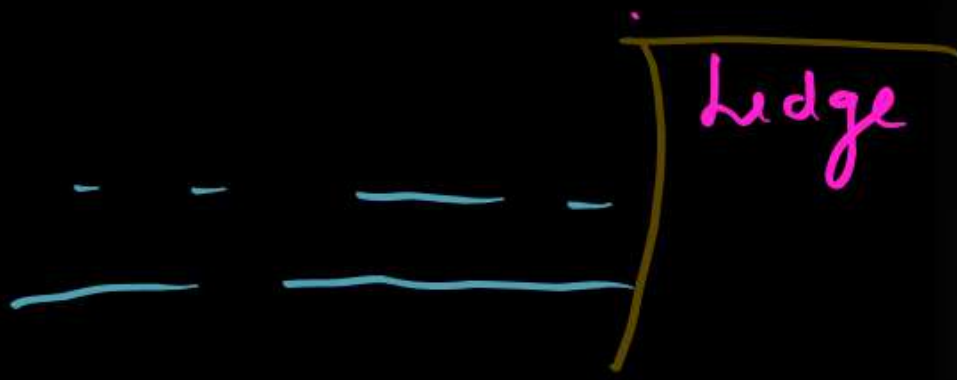
(D) Cheerful

Introduction



- This story is about a family of **Seagulls.**
- There was a young seagull in the family who couldn't fly due to fear of falling down.
- *The story highlights the **importance of family** in one's life.*
- *It also shows that one needs to **believe in oneself** to overcome all the hurdles of life.*





The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them.



Somehow when he had taken a
little run forward to the ^{edge} brink of
the ledge and ^{to} attempted to flap
his wings he became afraid.

The great ^{a large area} expanse of sea
^{फैला हुआ} stretched down ^{below} beneath, and it
was such a long way down –
miles down.



Sure

He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he ^{*झुका कर*} bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. Even when each of his brothers and his little sister, whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he failed to ^{*gather*} muster up ^{*देखकर*} courage to take that ^{*jump*} plunge which appeared to him so desperate. *risky; threatening*



His father and mother
had come around calling
a high-pitched unpleasant sound
to him shrilly, upbraiding
Scolding
him, threatening to let
धमकी देना
him starve on his ledge
मुरवा मारना
unless he flew away. But
except if
for the life of him he
could not move.



**That was twenty-four hours
ago. Since then, nobody
had come near him.**



The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister,



teaching them how to
skim the waves,

to fly above something, just touching it



and how to dive for fish.



perfecting them in the
art of flight,

उड़ान

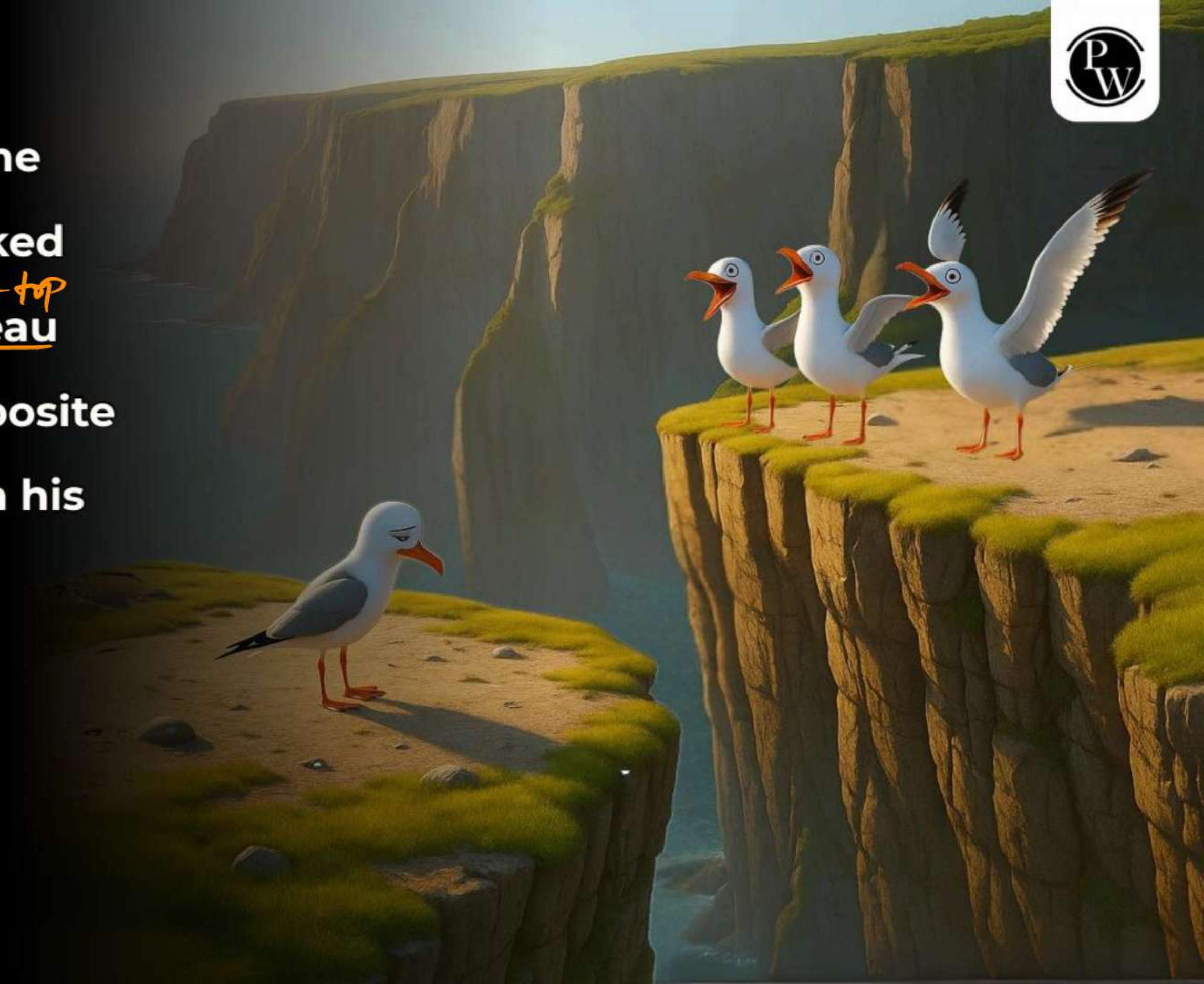
He had, in fact, seen his older
brother catch his first herring
a fish
to eat quickly
and devour it, standing on a
rock, while his parents circled
around raising a proud cackle.

*a sound made
by birds*



And all the morning the
whole family had walked
about on the big ^{table-top} plateau
midway down the opposite
^{a peak} ^{mocking}
cliff taunting him with his
cowardice.

कलियरनी



The sun was now ascending
Shining brightly
the sky, blazing on his ledge
that faced the south. He felt
the heat because he had not
eaten since the previous
nightfall.

Sunset ; सांझ



He stepped slowly out to the ^{edge} 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 ^{acting} pretended to be falling asleep. Still they took no notice of him. He saw his two brothers and his sister lying on the plateau ^{sleeping} dozing with their heads ^{set; sink} sunk into their necks. His father was preening the feathers on his white back. ^{cleaning}





Only his mother was looking at him. She was standing on a little *a raised platform* high hump on the plateau, her white breast thrust forward.



Time to time tear
Now and again, she tore at a piece
of fish that lay at her feet and then
scrapped each side of her beak on
the rock. The sight of the food
maddened him.

making him mad



How he loved to tear
food that way,
scrapping his beak
now and again to
whet it.
Sharpen



Q1. What was the young seagull's main fear?

- ☐ **A** The height of the ledge.
- ☒ **B** The depth of the sea below.
- ☐ **C** Strength of the wind.
- ☐ **D** The noise of the waves.

Q2. How did the young seagull's family react to his inability to fly?

- A** They ignored him completely.
- B** They encouraged him gently.
- C** They upbraided and threatened him.
- D** They tried to carry him away.

Q3. What did the young seagull see his mother doing on the plateau?

- A** Teaching his siblings to fly.
- B** Preening her feathers.
- C** Tearing at a piece of fish.
- D** Sleeping in the sun.

Q4. Why did the young seagull feel the heat as the sun ascended the sky?

- ☐ **A** Because he was not used to the warmth.
- ☒ **B** Because he had not eaten since the previous nightfall.
- ☐ **C** Because he was sick.
- ☐ **D** Because he was sitting on a rock.

“Ga, ga, ga,” he cried begging her to bring him some food. “Gaw-col-^{Shouted}ah,” she ^{mockingly}screamed back derisively. But he kept calling ^{Sadly}plaintively, and after a minute or so he ^{speak}uttered a joyful scream. His mother had picked up a piece of the fish and was flying across to him with it. He ^{झुकना}leaned out eagerly, tapping the rock with his feet, trying to get nearer to her as she flew across.



But when she was just
opposite to him, she ^{Stopped} halted,
her wings motionless, the
piece of fish in her beak
almost within reach of his
beak.



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



**But it only lasted a minute.
The next moment he felt his
wings spread outwards. The
wind rushed against his
breast feathers, then under
his stomach, and against his
wings.**



He could feel the tips of his wings
cutting through the air. He was not
falling ^{सिर के धल} headlong now. He was
^{to fly} soaring ^{slowly} gradually downwards and
outwards. He was no longer afraid.
He just felt a bit ^{पतकर} dizzy. Then he
flapped his wings once and he
soared upwards.



“Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-
ah,” his mother *fly quickly next to him* swooped past

him, her wings making a loud
noise. He answered her with
another scream. Then his father
flew over him screaming. He
saw his two brothers and his

sister flying around him
to jump like a horse to fly with a wing below
curveting and banking and *other*
soaring and diving.

jump



Then he completely forgot
that he had not always
been able to fly, and
appreciated
commended himself to
dive and soar and curve,
shrieking shrilly.

Shout *high-pitched sound*



He was near the sea now,
flying straight over it, facing
straight out over the ocean. He
saw a ^{huge} vast green sea ^{below} beneath
him, with ^{small waves} little ridges moving
over it and he turned his beak
sideways and cawed amusedly.

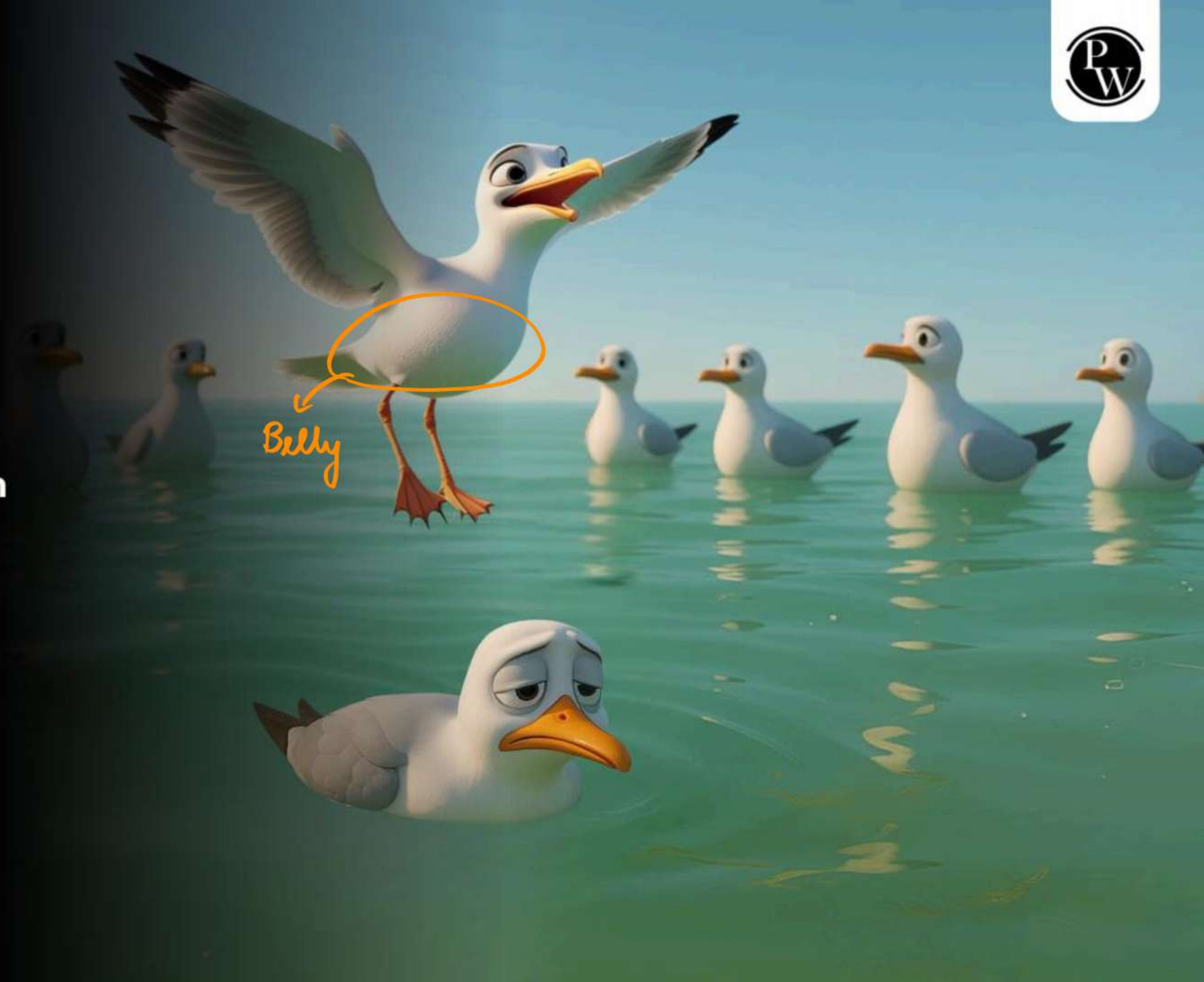
sound made
by bird happily



His parents and his brothers
and sister had landed on
this green sea ^{green sea} ahead of
him. They were beckoning ^{to signal}
to him, calling shrilly. He
dropped his legs to stand on
the green sea. His legs sank ^{डा}
into it. He screamed with
fear ^{fear} and attempted to rise
again flapping his wings.



But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, ^{tired} exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther.



तेरना

He was floating on it,

and around him his

family was screaming,

तारीफ

praising him and their

beaks were offering him

pieces

scraps of dog-fish.

He had made his first

flight. //



* Message :



- ① Believe in yourself.
- ② Importance of family
- ③ Never give up.

Q1. What did the young seagull's mother do when he cried for food?

A

She ignored him.

B

She brought him the fish immediately.

C

She screamed derisively and then flew towards him with the fish.

D

She flew away.

Q4. How did the young seagull's family react when they saw him flying?

A They ignored him.

B They scolded him.

C They flew over and around him, encouraging him.

D They flew away.

Q5. What did the young seagull's family do once he landed on the sea?

- A** They flew away from him.
- B** They scolded him for being late.
- ☒ **C** They praised him and offered him food.
- D** They left him to fend for himself.

Summary



The Young Seagull's Fear of Flying

The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already learnt to fly. The young Seagull was afraid to fly because of the long stretch and depth of the sea. He thought that his wings will not support him. So, he ran back to his hole on the ledge.



The Young Seagull's Fear of Flying

Therefore, the young seagull failed to gather up the courage to fly. His father and mother tried to persuade him to fly. They scolded and even threatened him, that if he does not try to fly, they would let him die of hunger. But the young seagull did not move.



Parents Leave the Young Seagull Alone

Twenty-four hours passed and nobody came near him. All the day, the young seagull watched his parents teaching his brothers and sister how to fly. They were also teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for catching the fish. He had seen his elder brother catch the first herring. When he ate it, his parents praised him. The whole family taunted the young seagull for his cowardice.



The Hungry Seagull

As the time passes, the young seagull could not tolerate the hunger and the heat. He moved closer to the ledge and pretended to fall asleep but nobody took notice of him. His two brothers and his sister were sleeping, and his father was cleaning his feathers on his white back. Only his mother noticed him. She was standing high on the plateau with a fish. As the young seagull saw the food, he felt more hungry.



The Mother's Trick

Realising his madness for the foot, his mother tried to tempt him with pieces of fish. Initially, she tore the fish in the manner the young seagull loved to eat. This sight maddened the young seagull. Then, the mother flew nearer to him which filled young seagull with joy.



The Mother's Trick

However, the mother stopped near the edge of the ledge. Out of excitement and hunger, the young seagull ran towards his mother and dived for the fish.



The Joy of Flight

Initially, the seagull was scared and screamed with fear who he dived. But soon he felt his wings spread outwards and he began to fly slowly downwards and upwards. He was not afraid of flying.



The Family Celebration

Soon his parents, brothers and sister flew around him. When all the family members landed on the green sea, they called the young seagull to be with them.

As the young seagull landed on the green sea, his legs sank into it. He tried to fly again but he was tired and weak with hunger.



The Family Celebration

Finally, his feet sank into the green sea, his belly touched it and he was floating on it. The family members praised him and offered him pieces of dog- fish as he had made his first flight



Glossary



Brink

Edge

Flap

To move wings up and down

Muster up

Gather

Plunge

Dive

Desperate

A great need or desire

Shrilly

Sharply

Upbraiding

Rebuking, scolding



Starve

Die of hunger

Dive

Quick and sudden downward movement

Taunting

A remark made to make someone angry or upset

Cowardice

Lack of courage

Blazing

Shining with great heat, burning

Dozing

Sleeping lightly

Preening

Smoothing feathers with beak, making an effort to maintain feathers

Scraped

Rubbed

Maddened

Made mad

Whet

To increase interest in it, to sharpen

Derisively

Mockingly, in a manner showing someone that she/he is stupid

Plaintively

Sorrowfully

Leaned out

Bent his body outward

Tapping

Beating lightly



Halted

Stopped

Monstrous

Very fearful

Seized

Caught

Headlong

Head downwards

Soaring

Flying upwards

Dizzy

Confused, spinning, an uncomfortable feeling of spinning around and losing one's balance

Swooped

Pounced

Curveting

Moving with an action resembling a horse's leap, leaping like a horse

Banking

Flying with one wing higher than the other

Commended

Praised

Ridges

Wavy edges

Cawed

To utter a cry

Beckoning

Signaling

Fright

Fear

Ledge

A narrow horizontal shelf projecting from a wall or (here) a cliff

(to) skim

To move lightly just above a surface (here, the sea)

Herring

A soft-finned sea fish

NCERT Questions

✓ Q.1 Why was the young seagull afraid to fly? Do you think ^{nervous} (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?

✓ Q2. "The sight of the food maddened him." What does this suggest?
What compelled the young seagull to finally fly? ☆ ☆

✓ Q3. ^{forced} "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly." Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

NCERT Questions

Y.N. ✓ **Q.4** Have you ever had a similar experience, where your parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try?

Y.N. ✓ **Q.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?

Q1. How did the Seagull's parents try to make him fly?

(CBSE 2019)

Q2. How did the young Seagull and his family celebrate his first flight?

(CBSE 2019)

Q3. 'The sight of the food maddened him'. What does this suggest?

(CBSE 2020)

Q4. The Oxford Dictionary defines 'hangry' as 'bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger'. To what extent can the young seagull's motivation to fly be attributed to being hungry? Support your stance with evidence from the text.

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

👉 How did the Seagull's parents try to make him fly?

(CBSE 2019)

💡 The young Seagull's parents tried hard to make him fly. They scolded him and threatened him to let him starve. But the young Seagull could not gain courage to fly. Then, they taunted him. Finally, the young Seagull's mother tempted him with food which resulted in making him fly.

 How did the young Seagull and his family celebrate his first flight?

(CBSE 2019)

 When the young Seagull started flying, he was filled with joy and delight. His family came near him and were flying around him. They celebrated the young Seagull's first flight. They screamed with joy and praised him. They even offered him pieces of fish to eat.

 'The sight of the food maddened him'. What does this suggest?

(CBSE 2020)

 The phrase "The sight of the food maddened him" suggests that the young Seagull was very hungry. As the young Seagull was afraid to fly, his parents refused to give him any food. So, when he saw food, his hunger increased.

 The Oxford Dictionary defines 'hangry' as 'bad-tempered or irritable as a result of hunger'. To what extent can the young seagull's motivation to fly be attributed to being hungry? Support your stance with evidence from the text.

(CBSE Question Bank 2021)

 The seagull's family left him alone and he did not eat anything for the whole day. His hunger overpowered his fear and he motivated him to dive towards his mother holding a fish in her beak.

 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?

NCERT QUESTION

 The young Seagull was afraid to fly because he felt that his wings would not support him, and he would fall from a great height.
Yes, when something is done for the first time, it is a bit challenging and fearful. All birds get afraid while making their first flight. However, it is also a fact that some birds are more timid than the other and consequently take more time to fly.
Just like a bird, a human baby is also afraid of taking the first step and finds it challenging.

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

NCERT QUESTION

 This suggests that the young Seagull was hungry and when he saw food his hunger increased.

It was his hunger that ultimately compelled him to fly. His hunger intensified when he saw his mother tearing up a piece of fish that lay at her feet. He cried to her, begging her to get some food. So, she flew towards him with a fish in her beak and stopped at some distance. Unable to control himself, the young Seagull dived for food. Naturally, his wings spread out and he began to fly.

 “They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly.” Why did the seagull’s father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly?

NCERT QUESTION

 Unlike his siblings, the poor Seagull could not gather enough courage to take his first flight. Thus, his parents taunted him for being a coward. They threatened and cajoled him so that he might take his first flight. His mother thought it that hunger would make him fly looking for his food. She did this to remove his fear of flight.

 Have you ever had a similar experience, where your parents encouraged you to do something that you were too scared to try?

NCERT QUESTION

 Yes, I had a similar experience while learning to ride a bicycle in class VI. In my initial attempts, I fell down every time and developed a fear of cycling which was difficult to overcome. My father encouraged me to overcome the fear and helped in learning cycling. He took me on a small hill near our village, made me sit and asked me to put my hands on the handle and feet on the pedals. When he pushed me, the cycle moved and I enjoyed it without fear, which developed my confidence. Thus, I overcame my fear of cycling and started riding a cycle regularly after a little practice.

 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?

NCERT QUESTION

 In the example I have given as an answer to the previous question, it is evident that initially my success was not guaranteed. I was afraid of failure and did not even want to try cycling. But I was encouraged and motivated to do so. I had to try, regardless of the possibility of failure. I had to put in efforts and hard work. With the willingness and determination, my success became guaranteed as when someone is determined, success is assured.



Thank You