

Two Stories About Flying- Extract-based worksheet

Extract 1

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

1. What emotion is reflected in the seagull's belief that his wings would not support him?
 - a) Self-doubt
 - b) Overconfidence
 - c) Anger
 - d) Curiosity
2. Which of the following best describes the theme illustrated in this extract?
 - a) Dependence on family
 - b) Paralysis due to fear
 - c) Struggle for dominance
 - d) Power of imagination
3. What does the seagull's action of hiding symbolise in the context of personal growth?
4. How does the author use the seagull's fear to represent a universal human experience?
5. In what way does this moment serve as a turning point for the seagull's character development?

Extract 2

'His mother had picked up a piece of fish and was flying across to him with it. Maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish.'

1. What motivates the young seagull to finally take flight?
 - a) Imitation
 - b) Fear
 - c) Hunger
 - d) Encouragement
2. The mother's act of carrying the fish close to him reflects which parental quality?
 - a) Overprotectiveness

- b) Tough love
- c) Negligence
- d) Compassion

3. How does the author use hunger as a metaphor in this extract?
4. What does this moment reveal about the seagull's instinctive behaviour versus his learned behaviour?
5. Discuss how this scene captures the transition from fear to freedom.

Extract 3

'I switched on the radio and said, "Paris control, Dakota DS 088 here. Can you hear me?" There was no answer.'

1. What does the silence from the control tower symbolise in this moment?
 - a) Technical malfunction
 - b) Isolation and helplessness
 - c) Natural phenomena
 - d) Lack of coordination
2. How does the use of technology in this extract deepen the suspense of the story?
 - a) It emphasises human dependence on machines
 - b) It contrasts with the pilot's bravery
 - c) It highlights the uncertainty of the situation
 - d) It foreshadows a safe landing
3. Explain how this extract sets the tone for the supernatural element that follows.
4. What aspect of the narrator's personality is revealed through his immediate reaction?
5. How does Forsyth build tension through the description of communication failure?

Extract 4

'I saw another aeroplane – black and huge in the moonlight – flying next to me. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see the pilot's face turned towards me.'

1. What emotion best captures the narrator's experience in this moment?

- a) Relief
- b) Awe
- c) Confusion
- d) Fear

2. The absence of lights on the mysterious plane most likely signifies what?

- a) A mechanical failure
- b) A symbolic or supernatural presence
- c) Pilot's error
- d) Night-time camouflage

3. How does the imagery in this scene contribute to the mystery of the story?

4. What could the black aeroplane represent symbolically in the narrator's journey?

5. Discuss how this extract deepens the theme of faith amidst uncertainty.