Chapter 3: Two Stories about Flying I

Q 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?

A: The young seagull was afraid to fly because it was its first flight. It is a well known fact that doing something for the first time is challenging. It was scared that it would fall down into the sea and die. So, I think all young birds are afraid to make their first flights. In the same way, a human baby also finds it a challenge to take its first steps.

Q 2: “ The sight of the food maddened him”. What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?

A: The young seagull was very hungry. So he had to fly to get food. 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. Its mother came towards it with food in her beak. It screamed with joy. But its mother stopped midway. It wondered why she did not come nearer. It was not possible for the baby seagull to control its hunger any longer. So, it dived into its mother’s beak to get the food. His hunger overpowered his fear of the sea beneath the cliff. Then it started flying.

Q 3: “They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly”. Why did the seagull’s father and mother threaten him cajole (persuade) him to fly?

A: The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when it saw its brothers and sister flying, and its parents helping and teaching them , it could not gather courage to make that first flight. That is why its father and mother were calling to it shrilly and scolding it. The told him that it would die of hunger on the ledge if it did not fly. They did so because they wanted it to leave its fear behind and learn to fly.