

BRAIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

English Assignment

Class: X

July 2024

First Flight

Two Stories About Flying

I- His First Flight

Theme

“His First Flight” explores how self-assurance and confidence emerge through strategic encouragement. The seagull’s parents tried various methods to teach him to fly, but only the mother’s clever tactic helped him overcome his fear and take the leap. The story emphasizes the necessity of conquering fears before they dominate us.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. The young seagull “failed to muster up the courage to take that plunge”. In what way can the reference to the ‘plunge’ here be both literal and metaphorical? Explain.
2. “The young seagull was alone on his ledge.” How far do you think this condition was by his choice?
3. What did the young seagull do when he was maddened by hunger? Did hunger motivate him to dive at the fish in the air?
4. How did the young seagull overcome his fear and soared gradually towards the sea during his first flight?
5. What is the message that Liam O’ Flaherty wants to give to the readers through the lesson ‘His First Flight’?

II- The Black Aeroplane

Theme

The story suggests that a divine power controls human efforts. The Dakota pilot’s easy flight from Paris becomes perilous due to sudden bad weather. At this critical juncture, a mysterious guide plane appears, leading him to safety before vanishing just as mysteriously. This implies that the pilot’s bravery is influenced by supernatural forces. The lesson concludes enigmatically, with the pilot uncertain of his saviour’s identity.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. What is the message that Frederick wants to give to the readers through the lesson ‘The Black Aeroplane’?
2. Which two options did the pilot of the Dakota plane have when he encountered the storm clouds on his way? What did he decide to do? Why?
3. The narrator had two options before risking himself entering the storm clouds. Why didn’t he choose them?
4. James Lane Allen says, “Adversity reveals character”. What do you learn about the narrator from the experience? Mention any two traits supported by the textual evidence.
5. Why did the narrator want to meet the woman in the control tower? Did he get any information about the mysterious disappearance of the black aeroplane and its pilot?

From the Diary of Anne Frank

Theme

The extract describes the honest expressions of a young Jewish teenager during WWII. The musings of a reserved teenager who confides in her diary as a true friend. She reflects on the close relationships between teachers and students, as well as common experiences like student anxiety before exams and teachers' annoyance with excessive talking. The theme revolves around her straightforward observations and views on school life.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Why does Anne want to keep a diary? Why does she feel she can trust a diary more than the people?
2. Why was Anne in tears, when she left the Montessori School?
3. Why does Anne feel that writing in a diary is a strange experience?
4. Why does Anne need to give a brief sketch of her family? Does she treat 'Kitty' as an insider or an outsider?

The Midnight Visitor

Theme

The story "The Midnight Visitor" explores how mental agility is crucial for secret agents, enabling them to outsmart their adversaries. It portrays secret agents as vigilant, alert, adept at planning, composed under pressure, and quick-witted. Alongside this central theme runs a sub-theme illustrating the adages "appearances can be deceptive" and "never judge a book by its cover." Ausable's unremarkable and unassuming appearance misleads Fowler into underestimating his effectiveness as a spy.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Appearances can be deceptive, elaborate upon this statement concerning Ausable and Max's characters from 'The Midnight Visitor'.
2. 'Presence of mind and intelligence is more powerful than a gun.' How far is it true in the case of Ausable, the secret agent?
3. How does Ausable manage to make-believe that there is a balcony attached to his room? Look back at his detailed description of it. What makes it a convincing story?
4. Why did Fowler come to meet Ausable? Was he able to achieve his target?
5. "Pride comes before a fall" befits Max, who said: "I will get it back tonight." Was he successful? What lesson can be learnt from this?

A Question of Trust

Theme

The story revolves around the enduring theme that crime ultimately leads to consequences. Horace, emboldened by years of successful thefts, grows complacent about evading justice. However, his arrogance proves his downfall when he is ensnared by a fellow criminal and imprisoned. It underscores the idea that no crime can be justified; Horace's rationalizations about his actions as benign are futile. Each act of harming others is inherently criminal. Had Horace saved for books instead of stealing from safes, he wouldn't have faced rightful punishment. Similarly, the lady in red, another criminal, will likely face justice in due course.

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Horace Danby represents such people who adopt the wrong ways to fulfill their wishes. What values would you like such people to imbibe to reform themselves?
2. What do you think is the meaning of the phrase 'honour among thieves'?
3. Who is the real culprit in the story, the young lady in red or Horace Danby? Comment.
4. Horace stated that he robbed only those who had a lot of money. Was he really a threat to society? Did he lack the qualities of a good citizen? Discuss the values he needs to imbibe to lead a path of righteousness.
5. How did the lady in red turn out to be much smarter and cleverer than Horace Danby? How did one thief outwit and outmanoeuvre the other?

How to Tell Wild Animals

Theme

The poem humourously explores animal characteristics and behaviours, emphasizing keen observation, caution, and knowledge in wildlife encounters. Through wordplay and cultural references, it entertains while educating readers about the diversity of the animal kingdom and the importance of recognizing potentially dangerous creatures.

Poetic Devices

Imagery

Imagery evokes vivid mental pictures for the reader. For instance, the image of a Bengal tiger is conjured with the lines, "A noble beast greets you, with black stripes on a yellow background."

Oxymoron

An oxymoron appears in "noble wild beast." "Noble" implies honor and dignity, while "wild beast" suggests savagery, creating a paradox.

Metaphor

Metaphors in the poem are used ironically:

- "Roar with pain" compares a painful voice to the roar of a leopard.
- "Noble wild beast" ironically refers to a leopard as noble.
- "Caress" is used ironically for a bear's claw attack.

Alliteration

Examples of alliteration include:

- "Lep and lep again"
- "Roaming round"
- "Very, very hard"
- "Novice might nonplus"

Repetition

Repetition is used for emphasis:

- “He’ll only lep and lep again.”
- “Who hugs you very, very hard.”

Personification

The poem personifies animals:

- The tiger is referred to as “he.”
- The hyena and crocodile are given human traits of “smiling” and “weeping.”

Irony

Irony adds humor or satire:

- “A noble wild beast greets you.”
- “He’ll give you just one more caress.”

Poetic License

The poet uses poetic license to maintain rhyme and humor by:

- Shortening words like “lept,” “lep,” and “dyin.”
- Using unconventional sentence structures like “novice might nonplus” and “if strolling forth, a beast you view.”

Q- Answer the following questions.

1. Describe the effective use of humour in the poem ‘How to tell wild animals’. What are the poetic liberties taken by the poet in the poem?
2. At present, we are in a fast-moving world which is at times stressful. ‘Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life’. Comment.
3. Every animal is unique and has some special characteristics. What tricks does the poet adopt in distinguishing various wild animals?
4. Hyperbole is a literary device used when the poet exaggerates an image to make it comical. State two instances from the poem “How to Tell Wild Animals” where the literary device is used.