



# ENGLISH

## BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH (HINGLISH)

### HIS FIRST FLIGHT

#### Passages For Comprehension

1. 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 brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down — miles down. 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.

Why was the young seagull sitting alone on the ledge?



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2. 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 brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down — miles down. 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.

What did the young seagull feel when he thought of flying?



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**3.** 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 muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate. His father and mother had come

around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.

How did the young seagull feel when he saw his brothers and his little sister flying in the air?



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**4.** 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 muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate. His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.

How did his parents goad him to fly?



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5. 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, 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. And all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting him

with his cowardice.

What had the young seagull seen all day long the day before?



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**6.** 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, 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. And all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting him with his cowardice.

What did the whole family taunt him with?



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7. "Ga, ga, ga," he cried begging her to bring him some food. "Gaw-col-ah," she screamed back derisively. But he kept calling plaintively, and after a minute or so he uttered a joyful scream. His mother had picked up a piece of the fish and was flying across to him with it. He 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 halted, her wings motionless, the piece of fish in her beak almost within reach of his beak.

Why did his mother scream back derisively when the young seagull cried begging her to bring him some food?



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8. "Ga, ga, ga," he cried begging her to bring him some food. "Gaw-col-ah," she screamed back derisively. But he kept calling plaintively, and after a minute or so he uttered a joyful scream. His mother had picked up a piece of the fish and was flying across to him with it. He

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 halted, her wings motionless, the piece of fish in her beak almost within reach of his beak.

How did he attempt to go near his mother?



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**9.** 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. 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 headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid.

What did the young seagull do maddened by hunger?



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**10.** 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. 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 headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards.

He was no longer afraid.

How did the seagull soar gradually downwards and outwards?



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**11.** Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. He was near the sea now, flying straight over it, facing straight out over the ocean. He saw a vast green sea beneath him, with little

ridges moving over it and he turned his beak sideways and cawed amusedly.

What did the young seagull completely forget?



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**12.** Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. He was near the sea now, flying straight over it, facing straight out over the ocean. He



saw a vast green sea beneath him, with little ridges moving over it and he turned his beak sideways and cawed amusedly.

Why did he caw amusedly?



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**13.** His parents and his brothers and sister had landed on this green flooring ahead of him. They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright

and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish. He had made his first flight.

Why were his parents and his brothers and sister calling and beckoning to him shrilly?



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**14.** His parents and his brothers and sister had landed on this green flooring ahead of him. They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him

and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish. He had made his first flight.

How did his family welcome the first flight of the young seagull?



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## Ncert Textbook Questions Solved

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?



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2. "The sight of the food maddened him..."

What does this suggest? What compelled the young seagull to finally fly?



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3. "They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly."

Why did the seagull's father and mother threaten and cajole him to fly?



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

Discuss this in pairs or groups.



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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?



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6. We have just read about the first flight of a young seagull. Your teacher will now divide the

class into groups. Each group will work on one of the following topics. Prepare a presentation with your group members and then present it to the entire class.

- Progression of Models of Airplanes
- Progression of Models of Motorcars
- Birds and Their Wing Span
- Migratory Birds-Tracing their flights



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7. Write a short composition on your initial attempt at learning a skill. You could describe the challenges of learning to ride a bicycle or learning to swim. Make it as humorous as possible.



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**Additional Questions Solved Short Answer Type Questions**

1. Where did the young seagull sit alone? What did he watch from there?



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2. Why didn't the young seagull take the plunge? What stopped him from doing so?



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3. Did upbraiding and threatening of his parents help him in flying?



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4. How were his two brothers and sister different from the young seagull?



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5. How did the hungry seagull try to pretend to attract his mother's attraction?



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6. What was the mother doing standing on a little high hump on the plateau?



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7. Why did the young seagull cry "Ga, ga, ga"?

Did her mother oblige him?



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8. What did the young seagull do when he was maddened by hunger? Did hunger motivate him to dive at the fish in the air?



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**9.** How did the young seagull overcome his fear and soared gradually towards the sea during his first flight?



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**10.** Describe the seagull's first flight.



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**11.** How did his parents, two brothers and sister celebrate the first flight of the young seagull?



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**12.** What is the message that Liam O' Flaherty wants to give to the readers through the lesson 'His first Flight'?



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# Additional Questions Solved Long Answer Type Questions

1. Was the young seagull the same bird at the beginning and at the end of the lesson? Compare and contrast the two kinds of the same seagull in the lesson.



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2. All parental acts are for the betterment of the children.' It is true. However, one has to



make efforts through trials and errors shedding off one's early hesitations and fears to succeed in any enterprise. Justify this statement by taking points from the lesson 'His First Flight'.



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3. Maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish,' says the narrator about the young seagull. Do you feel hunger was the main motivating force

that made the young seagull take the plunge that taught him how to fly in the air?



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4. Describe the humiliation and taunting that the young seagull faced from his family when he used to sit alone on his ledge without mustering his courage to fly in the air.



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5. Hesitations and fears play necessary parts in human life but we get success in any enterprise only when we overcome our doubts, hesitations and fears. Justify this statement in the light of the young seagull's efforts to muster courage to fly in the air.



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