



ENGLISH

BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH (HINGLISH)

THE BLACK AEROPLANE

Passages For Comprehension

1. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky

above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch: One thirty in the morning.

How was the weather and where was he flying over?



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2. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch: One thirty in the morning.

What was he dreaming of?



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3. I checked the map and the compass, switched over to my second and last fuel tank, and turned the Dakota twelve degrees west towards England. 'I'll be in time for breakfast,' I thought. A good big English breakfast! Everything was going well—it was an easy flight.

What did he check and examine?



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4. I checked the map and the compass, switched over to my second and last fuel tank, and turned the Dakota twelve degrees west towards England. 'I'll be in time for breakfast,' I thought. A good big English breakfast! Everything was going well—it was an easy flight.

Why was it an easy flight?



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5. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.

Why did the old plane jump and twist in the air?



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6. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.

Why couldn't he believe his eyes?



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7. There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved. "Follow me," he was saying. "Follow me."

Describe the extremely grim situation the narrator was in.



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8. There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face

turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.

"Follow me," he was saying. "Follow me."

Who waved the narrator and said, "Follow me"?



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9. He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an

obedient child. After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was there in front of me in the clouds. Now there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

Why did the narrator behave like an obedient child?



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10. He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child. After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was there in front of me in the clouds. Now there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.

Why was narrator starting to feel frightened again?



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11. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere.

What did he see when he came out of the clouds?



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12. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could

not see it anywhere.

What happened to the black aeroplane?



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13. "Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar." So who helped me to arrive there safely without a compass or a radio, and without any more fuel in my tanks? Who was the pilot on the strange black aeroplane, flying

in the storm, without lights?

What did the lady in the control centre say about the black aeroplane?



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14. Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm?

No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar. So who helped me to arrive there safely without a compass or a radio, and without any more fuel in my tanks? Who was the pilot on the strange

black aeroplane, flying in the storm, without lights?

What did the narrator think about the pilot who helped him to land safely?



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Ncert Textbook Questions Solved

1. "I'll take the risk." What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it?



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2. Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm.



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3. Why does the narrator say, "I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota....?"



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4. What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?



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5. Who do you think helped the narrator to reach safely? Discuss this among yourselves and give reasons for your answer.



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6. Study the sentences given below:

(a) They looked like black mountains.

(b) Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black.

(c) In the black clouds near me, I saw another aeroplane.

(d) The strange black aeroplane was there. The word 'black' in sentences (a) and (c) refers to the very darkest colour.

But in (b) and (d) (here) it means without light/with no light.

'Black' has a variety of meanings in different

contexts. For example:

(a) 'I prefer black tea' means 'I prefer tea without milk.'

(b) 'With increasing pollution the future of the world is black' means 'With increasing pollution the future of the world is very depressing/without hope.' Now, try to guess the meanings of the word 'black' in the sentences given below. Check the meanings in the dictionary and find out whether you have guessed right.

Go and have a bath, your hands and face are absolutely black



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The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity



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8. Study the sentences given below:

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Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy



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9. Study the sentences given below:

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(d) The strange black aeroplane was there. The word 'black' in sentences (a) and (c) refers to the very darkest colour.

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Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in black



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(c) In the black clouds near me, I saw another aeroplane.

(d) The strange black aeroplane was there. The word 'black' in sentences (a) and (c) refers to the very darkest colour.

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(a) 'I prefer black tea' means 'I prefer tea without milk.'

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Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue.....



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11. Look at these sentences taken from the lesson you have just read :

(a) I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane.

(b) The young seagull had been afraid to fly with them .

In the first sentence the author was controlling an aircraft in the air . in the second sentence the seagull was afraid to move through the air , using its wings .

Another example is :

Children are flying kites .

Match the phrases given under Column A with their meanings given under column B .

A	B
1. Fly a flag	– Move quickly/suddenly
2. Fly into rage	– Be successful
3. Fly along	– Display a flag on a long pole
4. Fly high	– Escape from a place
5. Fly the coop	– Become suddenly very angry



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12. We know that the word 'fly' (of birds/insects) means to move through air using wings . Tick the words which have the

same or nearly the same meaning .

swoop	flit	paddle	flutter
ascend	float	ride	skim
sink	dart	hover	glide
descend	soar	shoot	spring
stay	fall	sail	flap



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13. Have you ever been alone or away from home during a thunderstorm ?



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Additional Questions Solved Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was the narrator happy and what was he dreaming of ?



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2. Why and when did he call Paris control room ?



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3. What did he find when he checked the map and the compass?



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4. Why didn't he return to Paris when he saw the storm clouds?



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5. The narrator had two options before risking himself entering the storm clouds? Why didn't he choose them?



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6. What did he do when he was inside the clouds?



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7. How was the narrator lost in the storm clouds and what did he try to do to come out of them?



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8. Who rescued the narrator when he was hopelessly lost in the storm clouds?



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9. How and when did the narrator feel that he was safe now?



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10. Did the narrator meet the pilot of the black aeroplane? How did he and his aeroplane disappear in the sky?



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Additional Questions Solved Long Answer Type Questions

1. Why and when did the narrator say that 'everything was going well and it was an easy flight'?



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2. The narrator had two options of avoiding the terrible storm clouds. Why didn't he use them? Was his decision of flying straight into

storm clouds a sound decision? Give a reasoned answer.



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3. Describe the appearance of the strange black aeroplane in the most hopeless situation. How did the pilot of the black aeroplane help the narrator to come out of the storm clouds and land safely?



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4. Who was the rescuer in the strange black aeroplane? Did the lady in the control room help the narrator in knowing anything about the man who helped him to land safely?



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