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**CLASS -X ENGLISH**  
**NCERT SOLUTIONS-First Flight**  
**Two stories about Flying**

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**Answer**

**Page No: 36 Thinking about Text**

**Answer1:** 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. Therefore, all young birds must be afraid to make their first flights. Similarly, a human baby would also find it a challenge to take its first step.

**Answer2:** The young seagull was very hungry. It was this hunger that ultimately compelled it to fly. Its hunger only intensified when 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. When its mother came towards it with food in her beak, it screamed with joy and anticipation. However, she stopped midway. It wondered why she did not come nearer. Not being able to resist or control its hunger any longer, it dived at the food in its mother's beak. At that moment, his hunger overpowered his fear of the great expanse of sea beneath the cliff. Finally, this plunge was followed by the natural reaction of its body, i.e., to fly.

**Answer3:** The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even when it saw its brothers and sisters flying, and its parents helping and teaching them, it could not gather enough courage to make that first flight. That is why its father and mother were calling to it shrilly and scolding it. They threatened to let it starve on its ledge if it did not fly. They did so because they wanted it to leave its fear behind and learn to fly.

**Page No: 40 Thinking about the Text**

**Answer1:** The risk was to fly through the black storm clouds. The narrator took the risk because he wanted to reach Paris to celebrate Christmas with his family.

**Answer2:** As he flew into the storm, everything went black. It was impossible to see anything outside the plane. It jumped and twisted in the air. When he looked at his compass, he saw that it was turning round and round. It was dead. Along with it, the other instruments, including the radio, were also dead. Suddenly, he saw another aeroplane. Its pilot waved at him, asking him to follow. He was glad to find a helper. He was using his last fuel tank and there was only enough fuel to fly five or ten minutes. Then, the other pilot started to go down and he followed. He suddenly came out of the clouds and saw the runway, on which he then landed his plane safely.

**Answer3:** He was delighted to land safely out of dark stormy clouds, therefore, he was not sorry to walk away from his plane. He felt bad, when he was not able to thank his guide, his mentor who saved him from frightening situations, but he was so happy after landing that he didn't feel sorry for not being able to thank the guide pilot.

**Answer4:** The women in the control room was surprised when the narrator asked about the other aeroplane and its pilot. She said that there was no aeroplane seen on the radar.

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**Answer5:** Probably, it was the narrator's own self that helped him through the storm. There was no other plane in the storm as the woman at the control centre could see only his plane on the radar. Also, no other plane was flying that night. In his fear, he might have been hallucinating. He was a good pilot, and it might have been his own self that came to his help.

### Thinking about the Language

**Answer1:**

1. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the face and hands are dark with dust and heat.
2. Here, 'black' refers to an angry look.
3. Here, 'blackest' refers to the darkest and cruellest crime against humanity.
4. Here, 'black' refers to dark and gloomy comedy.
5. The meaning of 'black' in this sentence is that the shopkeepers sell the described goods 'at a higher price'.
6. Here, 'black' means that the criminal suffered excessive beating at the hands of the villagers.

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**Answer2:**

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

**Answer3:** The words which have the same or nearly the same meaning as 'fly' are as follows:  
swoop, flit, float, dart, soar, hover, sail skim, glide, flutter

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