



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI - 110034**

**SUBJECT:- ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**CLASS X**

## **FIRST FLIGHT : TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING**

**BLACK AEROPLANE**

**BY : FREDERICK FORSYTH**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The lesson “Black Aeroplane” by Frederick Forsyth reflects on how one’s judgement gets distorted due to fantasizing and how it creates problems. In this chapter, the narrator is a pilot who is so eager to meet his family and have a good breakfast that he takes the wrong decision of facing the storm instead of doing the right thing. Miraculously, he somehow manages to escape with the help of a mysterious aeroplane.

**LINK FOR THE TEXT :**

[https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do\\_312796455301447680117634?contentType=TextBook](https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do_312796455301447680117634?contentType=TextBook)

### **SUMMARY**

The story “Black Aeroplane” is about a pilot who feels happy and contented to fly over a city that is sleeping (at the night time). He is flying from Paris to London. While taking his flight, he dreams about the long holiday with his family. He also fantasizes about the scrumptious breakfast he would have upon landing. As soon as he crosses Paris, he gets a look of the dark clouds that were a sign of the upcoming storm. The right decision would have been to turn back to Paris for the sake of safety. But he being overshadowed by

his dreams and not wanting to delay them, risks the life of his passengers and heads straight into the storm. Everything gets dark, he is unable to see, all his direction instruments stopped functioning and he even loses contact with the control room of the plane. When all hope was lost, he saw another plane whose pilot was more than willing to rescue them. The author was panicking as there was very little amount of fuel left. The anonymous pilot guided them out of the storm and disappeared as soon as they saw light. Upon landing, when he asks the lady in the control room about the other pilot, he is left in a shock, when she says that his was the only plane in the sky.

### ELEMENT OF MYSTERY

The 'Black Aeroplane' is definitely a mystery story. When the pilot is flying towards his home in Dakota, suddenly he is surrounded by a storm. As his plane moved inside the dark clouds, his compass stopped working and he was not able to see anything. Even his radio was not working and he was not able to contact ground control room. Then suddenly, he saw another plane flying next to him and the pilot gesturing to him to follow. The pilot gladly followed and soon was guided to safety. But as mysteriously as it had arrived, the plane disappeared. The pilot was not able to locate it and it remained a mystery.

### ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

- a) Why do you think the narrator didn't return to Paris when he saw the storm clouds?
- b) Pick out lines from the story that highlight the moments of panic faced by the pilot.
- c) Explain how was the narrator rescued when he was lost in the storm.
- d) Bring out the element of mystery from the story.
- e) What made the woman in the control centre look at the narrator strangely?

### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

- a) Have you ever been alone or away from home during the thunderstorm? Write a paragraph narrating your experience.
- b) Which are the questions that remain unanswered in the chapter? Discuss.

### VOCABULARY EXERCISES :

**I. 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.**

1. Go and have a bath; your hands and face are absolutely black. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The taxi-driver gave Ratan a black look as he crossed the road when the traffic light was green. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The bombardment of Hiroshima is one of the blackest crimes against humanity. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Very few people enjoy Harold Pinter's black comedy. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sometimes shopkeepers store essential goods to create false scarcity and then sell these in black. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Villagers had beaten the criminal black and blue. \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Match the phrases given under Column A with their meanings given under Column B:**

A	B
Fly a flag	Move quickly/suddenly
Fly into rage	Be successful
Fly along	Display a flag on a long pole
Fly high	Escape from a place
Fly the coop	Become suddenly very angry

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## HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS

BY : CAROLYN WELLS

### ABOUT THE POET

**Carolyn Wells (1862-1942)** was an American writer who was famous for books based on mystery. Her famous works are at the sign of the Sphinx (1896), The Jingle book (1899), the story of Betty (1899) etc.

### INTRODUCTION

In the poem, the poet has explained the characteristics of various wild animals in a very funny way. She has used language in a way that it generates humour. She is introducing the reader to various kinds of wild animals like Asian lion, Bengal tiger, bear, etc. explaining each of the animals in a very humorous way.

### SUMMARY

The poet describes the various wild animals. These animals are very dangerous and she has introduced them one by one in a very funny way. First of all she tells us about an Asian lion. She says that if you are visiting the jungles of the east and there you see an animal which has tawny skin and he roars so loudly that you will die out of fear. This means that you have seen an Asian lion. Next in the line is the Bengal tiger that she has explained to be a royal animal that at once attacks and kills a man. She says by adding humour that if this beautiful black striped animal kills you and eats you, then you have surely met a Bengal tiger. After this, she says that if the one met an animal that has black spotted skin and it at once jumps on him, then it means that he has met a leopard. Moreover, she says that if one will cry out in pain, it maybe of no use as the leopard will not stop attacking him. Then she moves on to the bear that she says will hug you very tightly. This is the way to recognize a bear as it kills a person by hugging him very tightly. So, she says that the bear will continue to hug us tightly and that is the only way to recognize him. After this, she asks a question to the readers that do they know how to recognize beasts that hunt their prey. Here she explains about hyenas who she thinks have a smiling face and the crocodiles that have tears in their eyes. This can be seen when they are killing their prey. The last one in the list

is the Chameleon. She says that it is a lizard - like creature which doesn't have ears and wings just like a lizard. Only this can help you differentiate between a lizard and chameleon. She further says that the chameleon has a quality of changing its colour according to the colour of the surface. So, to explain this she says that if the reader looks at the tree and if he can only see the tree, this means that there is a chameleon sitting on it which has already turned its colour to brown just like the branch of the tree.

## LITERARY DEVICES

**Rhyme:** Rhyme scheme ababcc is followed (chance-advance, east-beast, dyin-lion)

**Enjambment:** Continuation of a sentence to the next line (and if there.....tawny beast)

**Assonance:** use of vowel sound 'o' (you should go, should to you, roars,)

**Alliteration:** repetition of consonant of 'th' sound (the-thus)

LINK for a video :

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=how+to+tell+wild+animals&qpv=how+to+tell+wild+animals&view=detail&mid=876D135187BA74DD1CC6876D13518>

### ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS

NOTE. : ALL THE QUESTIONS ARE TO BE DONE IN THE FAIR NOTEBOOK.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS :

- a) Identify the invented words used in the poem. Why has the poet used them?
- b) How has the poet tried to arouse humour in the poem? Illustrate.
- c) What makes this poem interesting?
- d) Do you think that the poet is a good observer. Give reasons for your answer.
- e) List out all the examples of alliteration.
- e) Compose a poem of your own on any aspect of nature that fascinates you. Try to give a rhyme scheme to your poem.

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