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Question Bank

WBBSE Class 9 English (Bliss)

Lesson 8: His First Flight

by Liam O'Flaherty

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

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35 sourced questions: 25 Seen questions, 8 grammar questions, 2 writing tasks

Lesson Summary

A young seagull is afraid to fly. He stays alone on his ledge while his two brothers and his sister learn to fly and leave him behind. His parents try to coax him, scold him and tempt him with food, but fear holds him back. He feels the heat of the sun, grows hungry, and watches his family eat and enjoy themselves on the plateau below.

At last his mother picks up a piece of fish and flies towards him, but stops just opposite him in the air. Mad with hunger, the young seagull dives at the fish. He falls outwards and downwards into space, and in his terror he finds that his wings spread out and the wind rushes against them. He is no longer falling. He is flying. He soars upwards, screams with joy, and lands safely on the green sea, where his family praises him and offers him food. His first flight turns fear into triumph.

Key Points

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Author	Liam O'Flaherty (1896-1984), Irish novelist and short-story writer
Theme	Overcoming fear and gaining self-confidence; courage grows when we take the first step; the role of parents in gently pushing a child towards independence
Main character	The young seagull, timid at first, brave in the end
Other characters	The mother seagull, the father seagull, the two brothers and the sister
Setting	A ledge on a high cliff by the sea; the plateau below; the green sea
Central moment	The mother tempts the hungry young seagull with a piece of fish, and his dive turns into his first flight
Grammar topics	Changing parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective and adverb forms

Writing topics	Process writing (paragraph) and summary writing

Seen Questions

Questions from the textbook comprehension exercises and from school papers. Every question carries an honest source tag.

A. From the Textbook (Bliss IX)

Exercise 1: Tick the correct answer [textbook exercise]

(1) At night the seagull slept in a little (a) nest (b) hole (c) turret (d) burrow. [textbook exercise]

(2) The ledge faced the (a) north (b) south (c) east (d) west. [textbook exercise]

(3) The colour of the seagull's body was (a) red (b) black (c) blue (d) grey. [textbook exercise]

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(4) The two brothers and sisters of the seagull were lying on the (a) plain (b) plateau (c) valley (d) hill. [textbook exercise]

(5) The mother seagull had picked up a piece of (a) meat (b) insect (c) fish (d) straw. [textbook exercise]

Exercise 2: Answer within fifteen words [textbook exercise]

(a) What was the first catch of the seagull's older brother? [textbook exercise]

(b) Why did the seagull feel the heat? [textbook exercise]

(c) Why did the seagull dive at the fish? [textbook exercise]

(d) What happened when the seagull soared upwards? [textbook exercise]

> **Note:** In the printed book the item letters of this exercise are garbled. They have been renumbered (a) to (d) here.

Exercise 3: Answer within twenty-five words [textbook exercise]

(a) Why was the seagull afraid when he ran forward to the brink of the ledge? [textbook exercise]

(b) What were the seagull's two brothers and sister doing on the plateau? **[textbook exercise]**

(c) What happened after the seagull's feet sank into the sea? **[textbook exercise]**

B. From School Papers

2nd Summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2

Passage: "Ga, ga, ga," he cried, begging her to bring him some food. The mother lures the young seagull with a piece of fish. He dives, falls, and then soars.

A. Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) When the mother was just opposite to him, she (a) halted, (b) flew away, (c) sat beside him, (d) dropped the fish. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

(ii) The seagull could feel (a) great sea down, (b) strong wind blowing above, (c) his wings cutting through the air, (d) his wings not supporting him. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

B. Complete the sentence with information from the passage [1 x 2 = 2]

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(i) With a loud scream, the young seagull ..... **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

(ii) He uttered a joyous scream ..... **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

C. Answer the question [2]

How did the seagull's mother teach him to fly? **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2]**

> **Note:** The paper prints the seagull's cry as "Ge, ga, ga". The textbook spelling is "Ga, ga, ga", and that spelling is used above.

2nd Summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3

Passage: "The young sea-gull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before." The passage continues up to the elder brother catching his first herring.

A. Tick the correct alternatives [1 x 3 = 3]

(i) The young sea-gull had (a) Two siblings (b) Three siblings (c) One sibling (d) No siblings. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

(ii) The elder brother had caught (a) A whale (b) A penguin (c) A herring (d) A sea monster. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

(iii) The young sea-gull spent night in a (a) Club (b) Hole (c) House (d) Den. **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

> **Note:** Two misprints in this question have been corrected. The paper prints "ningt" for "night", and option (c) of question (i) is printed as "One siblings", which is ungrammatical; it is corrected here to "One sibling".

B. Complete the following sentences with information from the passage

(i) The parents taught the seagull's brother and sister ..... **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

(ii) After running up to the brink of the ledge, the young seagull felt afraid because ..... **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

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(iii) The young seagull was ..... **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

> **Note:** Question (iii) is incomplete as printed in the paper. No completion cue is given in the source, so it is reproduced as printed and no cue has been invented.

C. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False statements in the box provided [1 x 2 = 2]

(i) The young seagull has companions on the ledge. [ ] **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

(ii) The young seagull was curious to fly. [ ] **[2nd summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3]**

Grammar Exercises

Grammar topic for this lesson: changing parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective and adverb forms).

Exercise 4: Change the parts of speech of the given words in the chart (Noun / Verb / Adjective / Adverb) [textbook exercise]

Word	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
beauty				
dangerously				
care				
strongly				

Four words, four forms each: beauty, dangerously, care, strongly. [textbook exercise]

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> **Note:** The chart layout is unclear in the source. The four words are as printed; which column each word starts in has not been verified, so no starting column has been assumed.

Exercise 5: Rewrite the sentences changing the form of the underlined words as directed [textbook exercise]

(1) He is known for his honesty. (Change into adjective form) [textbook exercise]

(2) She spoke with kindness. (Change into adverb form) [textbook exercise]

(3) The sun shone brightly. (Change into noun form) [textbook exercise]

(4) She gave a wise judgment. (Change into verb form) [textbook exercise]

Writing Practice

Exercise 6: Process writing (paragraph within 100 words) **[textbook exercise]**

Write a paragraph within 100 words on the water cycle, using the following flow-chart: water evaporates from water bodies, rises as vapour, gets heavier, condenses, forms clouds, falls to earth as rain. **[textbook exercise]**

Exercise 7: Summary writing (within 100 words) **[textbook exercise]**

Write a summary of the following passage within 100 words: "Communication is part of our everyday life. We greet one another, smile or frown, depending on our moods. Animals too, communicate. Just like us, interaction among animals can be both verbal and non-verbal. Singing is one way in which birds can interact with one another. Male blackbirds often use their melodious songs to catch the attention of other blackbirds. These songs are usually rich in notes, encoding various kinds of messages. Songs are also used to keep off other birds from their territory, usually a place where they dwell. Large mammals in the oceans sing too, according to adventurous sailors. Enormous whales groan and grunt while smaller dolphins and porpoises whistle and click. These sounds are surprisingly received by other mates as far as several hundred kilometers away. Besides singing, body language also forms a large part of animals' communication mode. Dominant hyenas exhibit their power by raising the fur hackles on their necks and shoulders, while the submissive ones normally surrender to the powerful parties by crouching their head low and curling their lips a little, revealing their teeth in friendly smile. Insects such as wasps armed with poisonous bites or stings usually have brightly painted bodies to remind other predators of their power." (206 words) **[textbook exercise]**

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All 35 questions in this bank are sourced from the textbook or from school papers. No additional questions were needed, because every topic in this lesson already has sourced questions.

Answer Key

Exercise 1 (MCQ)

(1) (b) hole (2) (b) south (3) (d) grey (4) (b) plateau (5) (c) fish

Exercise 2 (short answers)

(a) His older brother caught his first herring.

(b) He felt the heat because he had not eaten since the previous nightfall.

(c) Maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish because his mother held it just out of his reach.

(d) He uttered a joyous scream, flapped his wings again and soared higher.

Exercise 3 (short answers)

(a) He was afraid because the great expanse of sea stretched down beneath him, miles down, and he felt certain his wings would never support him.

(b) They were lying on the plateau dozing, with their heads sunk into their necks.

(c) His belly touched the sea and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, while his family screamed, praised him and offered him scraps of dog-fish.

2nd Summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-2

A (i) (a) halted A (ii) (c) his wings cutting through the air

B (i) With a loud scream, the young seagull fell outwards and downwards into space.

B (ii) He uttered a joyous scream and flapped them again.

C His mother taught him to fly by tempting him with a piece of fish. She flew towards him and halted just opposite him, and maddened by hunger he dived at the fish, fell, and found his wings spread out. He was flying.

2nd Summative 2025, HazarNotes Set-3

A (i) (b) Three siblings A (ii) (c) A herring A (iii) (b) Hole

B (i) The parents taught the seagull's brother and sister to fly.

B (ii) After running up to the brink of the ledge, the young seagull felt afraid because the great expanse of sea stretched down beneath him and he felt his wings would never support him.

B (iii) Answer: not stated in the lesson text. The question is incomplete as printed in the paper, with no completion cue given.

C (i) F. The young seagull was alone on his ledge. C (ii) F. He was afraid to fly, not curious to fly.

Exercise 4: Parts of speech

Word	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
beauty	beauty	beautify	beautiful	beautifully
dangerously	danger	endanger	dangerous	dangerously
care	care	care	careful	carefully
strongly	strength	strengthen	strong	strongly

Exercise 5: Sentence rewriting

(1) He is known to be honest. (adjective form of 'honesty': honest)

(2) She spoke kindly. (adverb form of 'kindness': kindly)

(3) The sun shone with brightness. (noun form of 'brightly': brightness)

(4) She judged wisely. (verb form of 'judgment': judged)

Writing: model outlines

Exercise 6 (water cycle). Model outline: begin with water evaporating from water bodies, then vapour rising, cooling and condensing into clouds, and rain

falling back to earth. Keep the paragraph within 100 words and follow the flow chart order.

Exercise 7 (summary). Model outline: state the main idea first, that humans and animals both communicate verbally and through body language, then give one short example each for birds, sea mammals and insects, within 100 words. No full model answer is given, since a summary must be written in the student's own words.

Question count. 35 questions in this bank: 34 answered or outlined in the key above, 1 left honestly unanswered (Set-3, B (iii), incomplete as printed).

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