

BVP LKR

CLASS-10, SUBJECT-ENGLISH

DATE-18/05/2021

HIS FIRST FLIGHT

-----Liam O' Flaherty

SUMMARY:-

'His First Flight' by Liam O' Flaherty, is a magnificent story on the need of courage and self-confidence. It is a true parable about overcoming fears in life. Every journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step. But that single step is the most difficult one to make. Conquer the fear and venture forth; and we realise that we were born with wings.

The whole story is centred on a young seagull. The young seagull was hungry but too feared to fly even to get food. He looked down desperately at the vast expanse of sea that stretched down beneath his ledge. He was hungry. His parents had flown away along with his brothers and his little sister, leaving him alone on the rock without food. They could all fly; but he could not. He had tried several times to run forward to the brink of the ledge and flap his wings but being afraid could not fly. He was certain that his wings would not support him. His parents had tried countless times

to make him fly. But for the life of him he would not make an attempt.

He felt, after being left by his parents, that he was going to starve to death on his ledge. Even his mother did not look at him when she was tearing a piece of fish with her beak. The sight of food maddened him. He cried at her for getting food but she just screamed back mockingly.

Suddenly he felt the joy, seeing his mother approaching him with food in her beak. Even she halted near him, keeping the fish in her beak just out of his search. Maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. But his mother flew upward and he started falling. A monstrous terror seized him, but the next moment he realized that he was flying. He was then assured that he was born to fly and he had made his first flight.

Thus, we find that Liam O' Flaherty was a keen observer of sea life and he believed that man has a lot to learn from nature. He has given a human touch to the seagull's plight so that the reader is reminded of the nervousness he too might experience before doing something new.

This story, thus, highlights the importance of independence, self-belief and confidence, and the need for motivation to attain goals. Necessity is

always the mother of invention, but it sometimes needs an initial spark from outside.