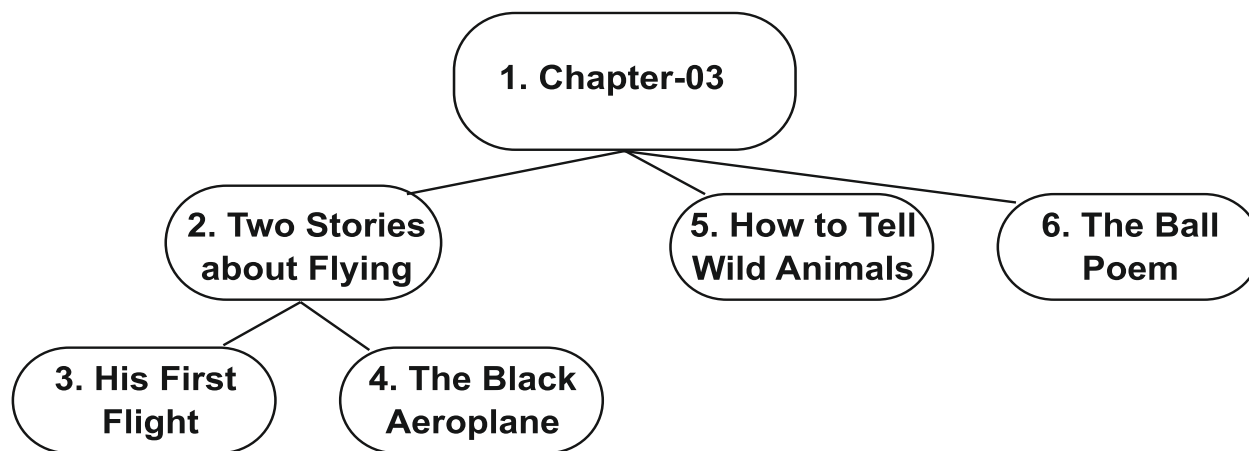


## Two Stories About Flying



**Liam OH Flaherty**

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## TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

#### Part I- His First Flight

Liam O'Flaherty

Liam O'Flaherty was an Irish novelist and short story writer. He was born on 28 August 1896 and breathed his last on 7 Sept. 1984. He was born in a remote village of Gort Nag Capall in Galway. In 1908, he went to Rockwell College. He became a popular literary figure with his best selling novel 'The Informer' (1925). The next novel 'Return of the Brute' was also a great success. O' Flaherty will be remembered as a major voice in the Irish literary renaissance. His works combine brutal naturalism, psychological analysis, poetry, and biting satire with an abiding respect for the Irish people.

#### Part II. The Black Aeroplane

Frederick Forsyth

Frederick Forsyth was born on 25th August 1938 in England. He is an English author, journalist, spy and occasional political commentator. Before becoming a journalist he joined the RAF and was a jet fighter pilot. His notable works include The Day of the Jackal, The Day of the Jackal, The Odessa File, The Dogs of War, The Fourth Protocol, The Fist of God, No Comebacks etc.

### INTRODUCTION

"Two Stories About Flying" includes experiences of a young seagull and a professional pilot under the two titles 'His First Flight' and 'Black Aeroplane' respectively. These are accounts of the thrill and fear that mark the 'first-time' experience of an individual. The young seagull's native flight and the miraculous safe landing of a pilot include the common elements of risk, reluctance, courage and success. The reader's interest is kept intact by the description about the emotional turmoil of the two 'fliers'.

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## SUMMARY

### I. His First Flight

On his ledge, the little seagull was all by himself. Sister and the two brothers had mastered flight. He wanted to fly but could not do it because he lacked faith in his wings' ability to carry him. The distance and the depth of the sea alarmed him. His parents encouraged him to leave and even scolded him. They warned him that if he didn't fly, he would starve to death, but the seagull stayed still in one spot and just was unable to move.

It was getting hot as the sun was rising up in the sky. As he was hungry he could feel the heat even more. His mother tried to tempt him with pieces of fish realizing his madness for food as he was really hungry for a long time. His mother flew across to get nearer to him but the food was just within the reach of his beak but he just could not get it. He was so hungry that he dived at the fish. As soon as he did that he felt that his wings had spread outwards and the wind rushed against his breast feather. Slowly he soared downwards and upwards.

Beneath him, he saw a vast green sea. He Tried to stand on the sea on which his parents and siblings had already landed. Just his feet sank into the green sea but he did not sink any further. His family praised him for his first flight.

### I. His First Flight

उसके किनारे पर, नन्हा सीगल अकेला ही था। बहन और दोनों भाइयों ने उड़ान में महारत हासिल की थी। वह उड़ना चाहता था लेकिन ऐसा नहीं कर सका क्योंकि उसे अपने पंखों की क्षमता पर विश्वास नहीं था। समुद्र की दूरी और गहराई ने उसे चिंतित कर दिया। उसके माता-पिता ने उसे छोड़ने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया और उसे डांटा भी। उन्होंने उसे चेतावनी दी कि अगर वह उड़ नहीं गया, तो वह भूखा मर जाएगा, लेकिन सीगल एक स्थान पर स्थिर रहा और बस हिलने-डुलने में असमर्थ था।

जैसे-जैसे सूरज आसमान में चढ़ रहा था, गर्मी बढ़ती जा रही थी। भूख लगने के कारण वह गर्मी को और भी अधिक महसूस कर सकता था। उसकी माँ ने मछली के टुकड़ों के साथ उसे खाने के लिए उसके पागलपन का एहसास कराने की कोशिश की क्योंकि वह वास्तव में लंबे समय से भूखा था। उसकी माँ ने उसके पास जाने के लिए उड़ान भरी, लेकिन भोजन उसकी चोंच की पहुँच के भीतर था, लेकिन उसे वह नहीं मिला। वह इतना भूखा था कि उसने मछली पर गोता लगाया। जैसे ही उसने ऐसा किया, उसे लगा कि उसके पंख बाहर की ओर फैल गए हैं और हवा उसके स्तन के पंख से टकरा गई है। धीरे-धीरे वह नीचे और ऊपर की ओर बढ़ता गया।

उसके नीचे, उसने एक विशाल हरा समुद्र देखा। उसने उस समुद्र पर खड़े होने की कोशिश की जिस पर उसके माता-पिता और भाई-बहन पहले ही उतर चुके थे। बस उसके पैर हरे समुद्र में डूब गए लेकिन वह और नहीं डूबा। उनके परिवार ने उनकी पहली उड़ान के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा की।

## WORD MEANING

### Word

### Meaning

Seagull-	a bird that lives near the sea and has short legs, long wings, and white and grey feathers
Ledge-	a narrow horizontal shelf projecting from a wall (or here) a cliff
Brink-	the extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body of water
Expanse-	a wide continuous area of something
Flapped-	(of a bird) move (its wings) up and down when flying or preparing to fly
Muster-	gather
Plunge-	jump or dive
Shrilly-	with a high pitched and piercing voice or sound
Upbraiding-	scold
Herring-	a soft-finned sea fish
Devour-	eat quickly
Cackle-	laugh in a loud, harsh way
Cowardice-	lack of bravery
Ascending the sky-	the act of rising up through the air
Preening-	to tidy and clean its feathers
Hump-	a rounded raised mass of earth or land
Scrapped-	discard
Derisively-	in a manner expressing contempt or ridicule.
Plaintively-	sad
Uttered-	make a sound with one's voice
Halted-	stopped
Monstrous-	horrible
Seized-	grab
Headlong-	with the head foremost
Soaring-	flying or rising high in the air
Swooped-	(especially of a bird) move rapidly downwards through the air
Curvetting-	perform a series of jumps on the hind legs
Shrieking-	making a high-pitched piercing cry or sound
Shrilly-	loudly and forcefully
Ridges-	a long, narrow hilltop, mountain range, or watershed
Cawed-	utter a caw
Beckoning-	gesture



## MAIN POINTS

### I. His First Flight

1. Seagull family of 6 members.
2. The young seagull is afraid of flying.
3. Family has concern of his food and fear of flying.
4. Cajoling and provoking him by family.
5. Family leaves him alone at the rock.
6. He cries because of heat and hunger.
7. No one looks at him except the mother.
8. Temptation by mother for a piece of fish.
9. He pretends to sleep but nobody comes to him.
10. Everybody taunts him for his cowardice.
11. The young seagull dives to catch a fish to feed himself.
12. He tries to spread his wings outwards.
13. He begins to fly slowly downwards and upwards.
14. He is now no longer afraid of flying and falling down in the sea. He soars with a joyous scream.
16. The Seagull family comes near to him and encourages him.
17. He has made his first flight successful.

### II. The Black Aeroplane

At night at 1:30, the author was flying his old Dakota airplane over France to England. The moon was coming up in the East behind him and the sky was clear. The stars were Shining In The Clear Sky. The author was dreaming about his holiday and was looking forward to being with his family.

He called Paris control to get instructed about his way. He was advised by them to turn 12 degrees West. And as he turned in that direction he saw storm clouds in front of him. He did not have enough fuel to go around the clouds. He decided to go back to Paris but also wanted to get home. He, therefore, took the risk. He could not see anything, it was all black outside the airplane. In those black clouds, he saw another airplane and was glad to see another person thinking that he was trying to help him. The author followed him. If you forgot half an hour and found that the fuel could only last for another 5 to 10 minutes. He began to fear and to go down. Suddenly on the ground, he saw two straight lines of Light.

He finally landed on the runway. It was a sign of relief for him. He looked for his friend in the black airplane but could not find one. He then went into the control Tower an active woman where he was. The author was wonderstruck as the woman told him that there was no other airplane except that of his. The author wondered who was the one in the black airplane without lights who helped him to arrive safely here.

## II. The Black Aeroplane

रात 1:30 बजे, लेखक अपने पुराने डकोटा हवाई जहाज को फ्रांस के ऊपर से इंग्लैंड के लिए उड़ा रहा था। चंद्रमा उसके पीछे पूर्व में आ रहा था और आकाश साफ था। तारे साफ आसमान में चमक रहे थे। लेखक अपनी छुट्टी का सपना देख रहा था और अपने परिवार के साथ रहने के लिए उत्सुक था।

उसने अपने रास्ते के बारे में निर्देश लेने के लिए पेरिस नियंत्रण को बुलाया। उन्हें उनके द्वारा 12 डिग्री पश्चिम की ओर मुड़ने की सलाह दी गई थी। और जब वह उस दिशा में मुड़ा तो उसने अपने सामने तूफानी बादल देखे। उसके पास बादलों के चारों ओर जाने के लिए पर्याप्त ईंधन नहीं था। उसने वापस पेरिस जाने का फैसला किया लेकिन घर भी जाना चाहता था। इसलिए उन्होंने जोखिम उठाया। उसे कुछ दिखाई नहीं दे रहा था, हवाईजहाज के बाहर सब काला था। उन काले बादलों में, उसने एक और हवाई जहाज देखा और दूसरे व्यक्ति को यह सोचकर खुश हुआ कि वह उसकी मदद करने की कोशिश कर रहा है। लेखक ने उसका अनुसरण किया। यदि आप आधा घंटा भूल गए और पाया कि ईंधन केवल 5 से 10 मिनट तक चल सकता है। वह डरने लगा और नीचे जाने लगा। अचानक जमीन पर उसने प्रकाश की दो सीधी रेखाएं देखीं।

आखिरकार वह रनवे पर उतर गया। यह उनके लिए राहत का संकेत था। उसने काले हवाई जहाज में अपने दोस्त की तलाश की, लेकिन वह नहीं मिला। फिर वह एक सक्रिय महिला नियंत्रण टॉवर में चला गया जहां वह था। लेखक को आश्चर्य हुआ क्योंकि महिला ने उसे बताया कि उसके अलावा और कोई हवाई जहाज नहीं था। लेखक को आश्चर्य हुआ कि बिना रोशनी के काले हवाई जहाज में वह कौन था जिसने उसे यहां सुरक्षित पहुंचाने में मदद की।

## WORD MEANING

Word	Meaning
Dakota-	A type of plane
Compass-	instrument for telling direction
Runway-	a strip of hard ground along which aircraft take off and land
Frightened-	terrified
Followed-	chased
Obedient-	one who obeys
Glad-	happy
Radar-	a system for detecting the presence, direction, distance, and speed of aircraft, ships, and other objects, by sending out pulses of radio waves which are reflected off the object back to the source
Looking forward-	To be eager
Strangely-	in a strange manner
Switch over-	Change
Wanted to get home-	Wanted to reach home
Straight into-	Directly into
Next to me-	Close to me
Waved-	Signaled

## MAIN POINTS

### II. Black Aeroplane

1. Once the writer was in his old Dakota and it was one thirty in the morning, he was flying over France and going to England.
2. After informing the Paris Control that he was on his way to England, he turned his plane 12 degrees west towards England.
3. He was dreaming of having breakfast with his family. Suddenly he saw stormy black clouds before him.
4. Paris was about 150 km away and he did not have enough fuel. So he decided to fly through the storm.
5. In the middle of the storm, he could not see anything and all his instruments like compass, radio, etc. stopped working.
6. Suddenly he saw another aeroplane without lights. Its pilot asked him to follow.
7. After half an hour, he came out of the clouds and found a runway. Now he was safe and happy.
8. He wanted to thank the pilot who helped him, but no one was there.

9. He went to the control room and asked the woman who was on duty about the pilot.
10. The woman looked at the writer surprisingly, laughed and told that there was no other plane in the radar. The writer was extremely surprised.

## CHARACTER SKETCH

### Story I-His First Flight

**Family of Seagulls:** 6 members in the family of seagulls

**Young Seagull:** One who is unable to fly due to fear.

### Story II-The Black Aeroplane

**The Narrator:** A pilot who was flying his Dakota aeroplane over France back to England lost his way due to a storm.

**The Unknown Friend:** A pilot who was flying the black aeroplane helped the narrator to find the way in the storm.

**The Woman:** The working woman in the control center whom the narrator asked about the unknown friend of the black aeroplane.

## HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS



(Carolyn Wells)

### About the poet:

Carolyn Wells, (born June 18, 1862, Rahway, N.J., U.S.—died March 26, 1942, New York, N.Y.), a prolific American writer remembered largely for her popular mysteries, children's books, and humorous verse. Her love of puzzles led to her first book, *At the Sign of the Sphinx* (1896), a collection of charades. She followed with *The Jingle Book* (1899); *The Story of Betty* (1899), first of a series of novels for girls; and *Idle Idyls* (1900), a book of verse for adults. Among her books are *Patty Fairfield* (1901), beginning a second popular series for girls; *A Nonsense Anthology* (1902), one of her best-known books; Her autobiography, *The Rest of My Life*, appeared in 1937.

## INTRODUCTION:

The poem revolves around the dangerous ways to identify wild animals. The poet tries to distinguish one animal from the other in a humorous way. The poem is, thus, very educative and informative which tells us about various features of wild animals.

### Stanza-wise Paraphrase:

*If ever you should go by chance  
To jungles in the east;  
And if there should to you advance  
A large and tawny beast,  
If he roars at you as you're dyin'  
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...*



**Explanation :** The poet here says if by chance you happen to go to any forest in the east, you are likely to encounter a huge and terrible animal moving towards you. You will notice that a large beast roars loudly at you and you feel that you are going to die due to fear, then you will come to know that it is the Asian Lion.



*Or if some time when roaming  
round,  
A noble wild beast greets you,  
With black stripes on a yellow  
ground,  
Just notice if he eats you.  
This simple rule may help you  
learn  
The Bengal Tiger to discern.*



**Explanation :** The poet says that it is very likely that while roaming in the forest, you are greeted by a wild beast. His majestic body is covered with black stripes on a yellow hide. The poet cautions if you notice this beast and if he eats you, then this simple rule will teach you that it is a 'Bengal Tiger'.

*If strolling forth, a beast you view,  
Whose hide with spots is  
peppered,  
As soon as he has leapt on you,  
You'll know it is the Leopard.  
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,  
He'll only lep and lep again.*



**Explanation :** The poet here helps the readers to identify a Leopard. He says if you happen to walk in the forest, you might encounter a beast with spots on his skin. When this wild beast will jump at you, you will understand that it is a Leopard as he will keep jumping on you and will tear you apart. Moreover, it will be of no use then to shout or cry with pain because he will continue pouncing on you. So you should be careful.

*If when you're walking round your  
yard*

*You meet a creature there,  
Who hugs you very, very hard,  
Be sure it is a Bear.*

*If you have any doubts, I guess  
He'll give you just one  
more caress.*



**Explanation :** The poet says that while you are walking in your yard, you may



encounter a creature there. When this creature hugs you very very tightly, then believe that it is a Bear. The poet further says that in case of any doubt, you will find that the Bear will embrace you once again till death.

***Though to distinguish beasts  
of prey***

***A novice might nonplus,***

***The Crocodile you always may***

***Tell from the Hyena thus:***

***Hyenas come with merry smiles;***

***But if they weep they're  
Crocodiles.***



**Explanation :** The poet, here, helps to differentiate the Crocodile from the Hyena. He says that a Hyena always laughs as it swallows its victim. A laughing Hyena's voice resembles human's laughing sound. A crocodile on the other hand, is said to shed tears while eating its prey.

***The true Chameleon is small,***

***A lizard sort of thing;***

***He hasn't any ears at all,***

***And not a single wing.***

***If there is nothing on the tree,***

***'Tis the chameleon you see.***



**Explanation :** The poet describes a chameleon in this stanza. He says a chameleon is a small garden lizard. It doesn't have ears or wings. The poet, further, says if you are unable to see a thing on the tree, then chances are that a chameleon is sitting there.

## **GLOSSARY:**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>East-</b>	<b>Eastern hemisphere</b>
<b>Tawny-</b>	<b>Yellowish, brownish colour</b>
<b>Beast-</b>	<b>Large animal</b>
<b>Roaming-</b>	<b>Walking, Moving</b>
<b>Noble-</b>	<b>Royal</b>
<b>Stripes-</b>	<b>Lines</b>
<b>Discern-</b>	<b>Recognise</b>
<b>Strolling-</b>	<b>Walking leisurely</b>
<b>Forth-</b>	<b>Ahead</b>
<b>Hide-</b>	<b>Skin</b>
<b>Peppered-</b>	<b>Spots on everywhere</b>
<b>Lept-</b>	<b>Jumped, Leaped</b>
<b>'Twill-</b>	<b>It will</b>
<b>Caress-</b>	<b>Hug, Pat</b>

<b>Distinguish-</b>	<b>Identify, Differentiate</b>
<b>Novice-</b>	<b>Inexperienced, Beginner</b>
<b>Nonplus-</b>	<b>To become confused</b>
<b>Beast of prey-</b>	<b>Animals who hunt</b>
<b>Hyena-</b>	<b>A type of animal</b>
<b>Merry-</b>	<b>Happy</b>
<b>Weep-</b>	<b>To cry</b>
<b>chameleon-</b>	<b>a small animal, looks like a lizard</b>

### Literary Devices:

**Assonance:** use of vowel sound 'o' (you should go, should to you, roars,); vowel sound 'e' (meet a creature there)

**Allusion:** Reference to a famous thing, place, species of animal, etc (Asian Lion)

**Alliteration:** repetition of consonant sound 'r' at start of two or more closely connected words (roaming round)

**Consonance:** use of 'l' sound (he'll only lep lep)

### MCQ QUESTIONS:

- What two things does a Chameleon not have?
  - does not have ears and nose.
  - does not have ears and wings.

- does not have nose and wings.
- none of the above.

**Ans. (b) does not have ears and wings.**

- What is the special feature of the crocodile?

- weeps while eating its prey.
- happy while eating its prey.
- angry while eating its prey
- none of the above.

**Ans. (a) weeps while eating its prey.**

- Which animal can we meet in our yard?

- Lion (b) Pig
- Deer (d) Bear

**Ans. (d) Bear**

- How is the Bengal Tiger described?

- noble dinosaur.
- noble wild beast.
- noble dragon.
- none of the above.

**Ans. (b) noble wild beast.**

- Where are the Asian Lions found?

- Eastern countries of the world

- (b) Northern countries of the world
- (c) Southern countries of the world
- (d) Western countries of the world

**Ans. (a) Eastern countries of the world**

6. Name the literary device used in the line "He hasn't any ears at all".
- (a) Assonance
  - (b) Inversion
  - (c) Enjambment
  - (d) Alliteration

**Ans. (d) Alliteration**

7. Who smiles while catching their prey?
- (a) Hyena
  - (b) Crocodile
  - (c) Both of them
  - (d) None of them

**Ans. (a) Hyena**

8. Which animals are the beasts of prey?
- (a) Hyena
  - (b) Crocodile
  - (c) Both of them
  - (d) None of them

**Ans. (c) Both of them**

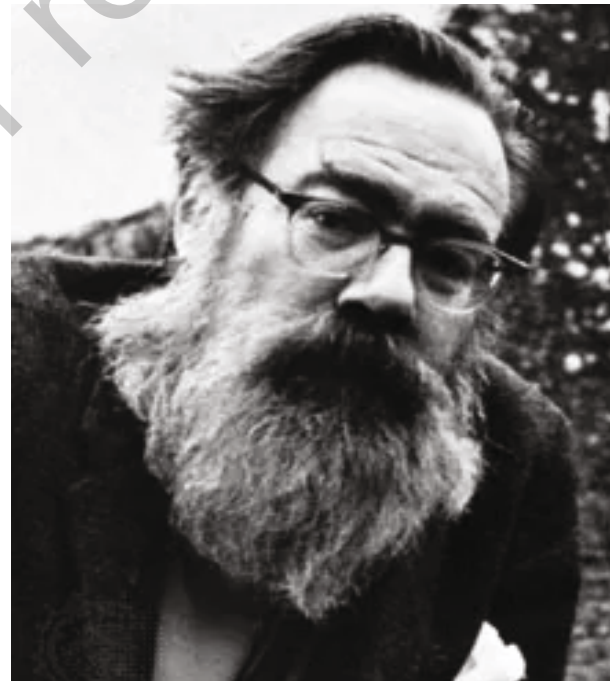
9. Which animal do you find while walking in a yard?
- (a) Asian Lion
  - (b) Bengal Tiger
  - (c) Leopard
  - (d) Bear

**Ans. (d) Bear**

10. Which animal's roar is enough to kill you?
- (a) Asian Lion
  - (b) Bengal Tiger
  - (c) Leopard
  - (d) Bear

**Ans. (a) Asian Lion**

## THE BALL POEM



## ABOUT THE POET:

John Berryman was an American poet and scholar. He is best known for the Dream Songs (1969) which was a sequence of 385 poems. He won Pulitzer Prize for the dream songs. He also won the National book award.

## INTRODUCTION:

The poet John Berryman through his poem, 'The ball poem' has described the reality of life which everyone has to face one day. He has touched the topic of how to stand up against the miseries and sorrows of life.

### Stanza-Wise Explanation:

#### Stanza One

What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,

What, what is he to do? I saw it go

Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then

Merrily over there it is in the water!

No use to say 'O there are other balls':

The poet begins the poem by telling about a young boy. For the first time in his young life, he has learnt a big lesson, which is to bear the grief of a loss of a loved possession, his ball. The boy loses his ball and sees it bouncing down the street into the water.

The ball symbolises the childhood memories. It is a valued possession of the boy and now it is gone. The ball must have been with the boy for a long

time and that's why he is sad over its loss.

The poet realises that it is of no use to console the boy with other balls since the boy wants the same ball only because of his attachment to it.

#### Stanza Two

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy

As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

All his young days into the harbour where

His ball went. I would not intrude on him;

A dime, another ball, is worthless.

When the ball bounces down the street into the water, the boy stands fixed with grief. He remains standing stiff and trembling, staring at the water.

When the ball goes into the water all his childhood memories come back to him and he realises that the moments that are gone would never come back, just like the ball. The poet refrains himself from offering some money to buy another ball because it would be worthless.

#### Stanza Three

Now He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

The poet says that in that instant the boy realises his first sense of responsibility. He says that from the loss of ball the boy has learnt how it feels to lose one's loved possession. The loss is immaterial and money can't buy memories and moments. Money cannot replace the things that really matter to us.

#### Stanza Four

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know

And most know many days, how to stand up.

The poet says that the boy is learning from the loss of his ball, how to bear the grief of loss of possessions. He is learning how it feels to lose something. Everybody has to stand up after such losses and the boy will also learn to stand up and leave his grief of loss behind and understand the true meaning of loss

## GLOSSARY:

### Word

**Merrily-**

**'O there are other balls'-** the words

**suggest that the loss should not worry as it can be compensated like buying new balls ;**

**Ultimate-**

**final;**

**Shaking-**

**shocking;**

**Bouncing-**

**jumping;**

**Grief-**

**sorrow;**

**Rigid-**

**stiff and firm like a statue;**

**Harbour-**

**a place where ships load and unload goods;**

**Tremble-**

**to shiver;**

**Dime-**

**a coin equal to 10 cent (U.S.) ;**

**Intrude on-**

**here, to enter a situation where one is not welcome ;**

**Possession-**

**to have to possess or own;**

**Worthless-**

**useless;**

**Sense-**

**to come to know;**

**External-**

**outer;**

**Epistemology-**

**the science of knowledge (The Greek word 'episteme')**



means  
'knowledge');

**Epistemology of loss-**

understanding  
the nature of  
loss;

**Desperate-**

hopeless;

Behind- at the back of.

### **Literary Devices:**

Assonance: repeated use of vowel 'o'  
(boy, now, who, lost)

Repetition: use of word 'ball'

Alliteration: use of sound 'b' at the start  
of two consecutive words (buys a ball  
back)

Personification: The poet describes  
ball merrily bouncing down the street.  
Merry means happy. It is a human  
characteristic which is given to the ball.

Rhyme scheme: There is no rhyme  
scheme followed in the poem. It is  
written in free verse.

### **OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS:**

1. Who is the poet of the poem  
'The Ball Poem'?

- (a) Sylvia Plath
- (b) W.B Yeats
- (c) Robert Frost
- (d) John Berryman.

**Ans. (d) John Berryman.**

2. Why are the boy's eyes  
desperate?

- (a) Because he has lost his ball.
- (b) Because he has lost his money.
- (c) Because he has lost his gloves
- (d) None of the Above

**Ans. (a) Because he has lost his ball.**

3. What does 'in the world of  
possessions' means?

- (a) Love
- (b) Lust
- (c) Materialistic things
- (d) None of the Above

**Ans. (c) Materialistic things**

4. Where was the boy staring  
down?

- (a) the sea
- (b) the ocean
- (c) the harbour
- (d) the lake

**Ans. (c) the harbour**

5. Name the literary device used in  
"And no one buys a ball back."

- (a) Metaphor
- (b) Simile

(c) Alliteration

(d) Anaphora

**Ans. (c) Alliteration**

6. Why does the poet decide not to condole the boy?

(a) He is busy

(b) He is indifferent

(c) It will be of no use

(d) He is happy

**Ans. (c) It will be of no use**

7. According to the poet, what is the child learning?

(a) to bear loss

(b) to take care of things

(c) to be responsible

(d) to be careful

**Ans. (a) to bear loss**

8. What does a ball cost?

(a) 5 dimes (b) 10 dimes

(c) 1 dime (d) 4 dimes

**Ans. (c) 1 dime**

9. What is the boy playing with?

(a) bat (b) ball

(c) car (d) bus

**Ans. (b) ball**

10. Name the literary device used in "Merrily bouncing, down the

street, and then Merrily over —  
there it is in the water!"

(a) Metaphor

(b) Simile

(c) Alliteration

(d) Anaphora

**Ans. (d) Anaphora**

## THE BALL POEM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q1-** Why does the poet say, "I would not intrude on him"? Why doesn't he offer him money to buy another ball?

**Answer:** The poet does not want to intrude so that the boy can get a chance to learn the real truth of life. He has to learn to accept the loss. The loss here means the most important thing or relationship.

**Q2-** "... staring down/All his young days into the harbour where/His ball went ..." Do you think the boy has had the ball for a long time? Is it linked to the memories of days when he played with it?

**Answer:** Yes we can say that the boy had the ball for a very long time. The line itself describes how the boy recalls those days when he used to play with the ball. The ball was surely linked to some sweet memories of his playing with the ball.

**Q3-** What does “in the world of possessions” mean?

**Answer:** In the world of possessions means that the world is full of materialistic things. Materialistic things are those things which bring comfort and luxury in our life.

**Q4-** Do you think the boy has lost anything earlier? Pick out the words that suggest the answer?

**Answer:** The line in the poem “now he senses his first responsibility’ helps us to know that the boy has not lost anything before.

**Q5-** What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words?

**Answer:** The poet means that the boy will learn the real truth of life. He will learn how to move on in life despite of incurring heavy losses. Everyone experiences this in his/ her life when they lose either something or someone. This harsh reality that lost things never come back make people strong enough to live their life by accepting this truth of life.