



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (সংস্কৃত)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

**CLASS IX**

**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**

**LESSON 3 - HIS FIRST FLIGHT**

**LIAM O'FLAHERTY**

**NOTES**

The lesson, 'His First Flight' by the Russian novelist and short story writer, Liam O'Flaherty, is a story about a young seagull's first attempt to fly. The young seagull had two brothers and a sister, who had perfected the art of flight while he was afraid to do so. His parents even threatened to let him starve unless he attempts to fly. But he was too afraid to fly. His family left him alone in the nest. They taunted him for his cowardice.

Later, after twenty-four hours of staying alone in the ledge, he started feeling hungry. He ate whatever was found in the nest, even the dried piece of the spotted eggshell. It was like eating a part of himself. He saw his two brothers and his sister lying on the plateau dozing while his father was preening the feather on his white back. He wished that he could reach them without having to fly. He then, saw his mother tearing at a piece of fish. The sight of the food maddened him. He begged his mother for some food. His mother picked up a piece of fish and flew towards the young seagull. The young seagull leaned out eagerly but the mother halted suddenly just opposite to him. Out of hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream, he fell outward and downwards. Then, he felt his wings spread outwards. This was how the young seagull was able to fly. He soared up and down, and float on the green sea. He was praised by his whole family members and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog fish.

Thus, in this lesson, the author is trying to express that no matter how afraid one can be, it is better to attempt and face the fear rather than running away from it.