



THE VILLAGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
"We Nurture Dreams"

REVISION WORKSHEETS - Grade 10

Two Stories about flying/The Midnight Visitor

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. For how long had the seagull been alone?**
- 2. Why did the seagull not go with the rest of his family?**
- 3. Why was the seagull afraid to fly?**
- 4. What were the ways the seagull had thought of to join his family?**
- 5. Why did the seagull dive towards his mother?**
- 6. He stood at the edge of the ledge on one leg and closed his eyes. Why?**
- 7. Who included the seagull's family except him?**
- 8. For how long had the seagull been alone?**
- 9. How was the seagull feeling?**
- 10. What sight maddened the young seagull?**

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. How did the young seagull's family celebrate his first flight?**
- 2. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull 'exhausted by the strange exercise'?**
- 3. 'The sight of the food maddened him.' Who is 'he' in these lines? Why was he angry? What does this suggest?**

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1. How has Max got in**
- 2. How does Ausable say he got in?**
- 3. What did Max want from Ausable?**
- 4. What is the significance of the balcony?**

- 5. Who knocked on the door while Max and Ausable were inside?**
- 6. What happened to Max when he attempted to escape through the balcony?**
- 7. Why did Ausable pretend that the police were at the door?**
- 8. What was the purpose of the paper they were waiting for?**
- 9. Why is Fowler disappointed?**
- 10. What does this reveal about Ausable's character and values?**
- 11. Characteristic traits of Ausable.**
- 12. Characteristic trait of Max.**
- 13. How did Ausable's presence of mind help him?**
- 14. What is the significance of the title of the story?**
- 15. Discuss the themes of appearance vs reality and deception in the story.**



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Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. For how long had the seagull been alone?

Answer: The seagull had been alone for twenty-four hours.

2. Why did the seagull not go with the rest of his family?

Answer: He did not go because he was afraid to fly.

3. Why was the seagull afraid to fly?

Answer: He was afraid to fly because he felt that his wings could not support him.

4. What were the ways the seagull had thought of to join his family?

Answer: He thought of joining his family by jumping and by walking up to them.

5. Why did the seagull dive towards his mother?

Answer: The seagull dove towards his mother because he wanted the fish in his mother's beak.

6. He stood at the edge of the ledge on one leg and closed his eyes. Why?

Answer: He wanted to get the attention of his family.

7. Who included the seagull's family except him?

Answer: There were five members in his family except for him-his father, mother. two brothers and a sister.

8. For how long had the seagull been alone?

Answer: He had been alone for the last twenty-four hours.

9. How was the seagull feeling?

Answer: He was feeling very hungry.

10. What sight maddened the young seagull?

Answer: The sight of food maddened him.

1. How did the young seagull's family celebrate his first flight?

Answer: The young seagull was afraid to fly. Even the encouragement and coaxing didn't work. But when the seagull had his first flight, he as well as his family was happy, relieved and proud of him to have completed his first flight.

2. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull 'exhausted by the strange exercise'?

Answer: The seagull didn't have the courage to fly. Hence, he used to make excuses for not flying. He felt certain that his wings were too weak to support him. He had no courage to flap his wings and failed to muster up the courage to take the plunge.

3. 'The sight of the food maddened him.' Who is 'he' in these lines? Why was he angry? What does this suggest?

Answer: (i) The young seagull is the 'he' in these lines.

(ii) He had not eaten anything for the last 24 hours. He was very hungry, hence was angry.

(iii) His mother went near him with a piece of fish but did not feed him. Maddened by hunger, the young seagull dove to snatch it but the mother flew away. This shows the weakness of the young seagull.

1. How has Max got in?

- **Max got into Ausable's room using a passkey.**

2. How does Ausable say he got in?

- **Ausable mentions that Max entered his room through the balcony which extends under Ausable's window. He perhaps have accessed the balcony from the empty room two doors down. Ausable explains that the balcony belongs to the next apartment, and**

someone had accessed his room through it in the past.

3. What did Max want from Ausable?

- Max wanted to take a report that was being brought to Ausable that night. The report contained information about new missiles. Max believed it would be safer in his hands than in Ausable's possession.

4. What is the significance of the balcony?

- The balcony connects Ausable's room to the empty room two doors down. In the past, someone had used the balcony to gain unauthorized access to Ausable's room. The management was supposed to block off the balcony, but they hadn't done so, leaving it as a potential entry point. In reality, Ausable had made up the balcony to outwit adversaries.

5. Who knocked on the door while Max and Ausable were inside?

- The knocking at the door was caused by a waiter delivering a drink that Ausable had ordered for when he returned. It was not the police, as Ausable had pretended to Max earlier.

6. What happened to Max when he attempted to escape through the balcony?

- As Max tried to drop down from the balcony to escape, he screamed once and did not return. It is implied that there was no balcony, and Max fell to the ground or encountered some other misfortune.

7. Why did Ausable pretend that the police were at the door?

- Ausable pretended that the police were knocking at the door to create a sense of urgency and tension. In reality, he had instructed a waiter to bring him a drink. He used this facade so that he could trap Max and force him to hide in the balcony, in the process making him fall and kill himself in order to protect the important paper he was waiting for.

8. What was the purpose of the paper they were waiting for?

- The paper they were waiting for contained important information that could potentially affect the course of history.

9. Why is Fowler disappointed?

- Fowler is disappointed because Ausable does not fit the stereotypical image of a secret agent. He is overweight, lacks the exotic allure, and his activities involve more mundane tasks like receiving telephone calls instead of engaging in thrilling adventures.

10. What does this reveal about Ausable's character and values?

- Fowler expresses disappointment because he imagined a more glamorous and adventurous lifestyle for a spy. Ausable, being a fat man with a more ordinary existence, understands that the reality of his work may not align with the romanticized notion. This reveals Ausable's practicality and grounded perspective. He values realism and recognizes that the life of a secret agent involves less excitement and more mundane tasks than one might imagine.

11. Characteristic traits of Ausable.

- Ausable:
 - Physical appearance: Ausable is described as a fat man. This physical trait sets him apart from the typical image of a sleek and physically fit secret agent.
 - Language skills: Ausable speaks French and German passably, indicating his linguistic abilities.
 - Experience and longevity: Ausable has been in Paris for twenty years, suggesting a long history in the city as a secret agent. This implies that he has accumulated experience and knowledge over time.
 - Unconventional nature: Ausable does not fit the traditional image of a secret agent. He lacks the expected glamour and adventurous lifestyle that Fowler envisioned. Instead, he engages in more mundane activities such as attending a music

hall and receiving appointments through phone calls.

- Ability to outwit adversaries/presence of mind: Ausable outwitted Max, who threatens him with a pistol. This implies that he possesses strategic thinking and problem-solving skills. This hints at his ability to navigate dangerous situations and come up with clever solutions.

12. Characteristic trait of Max.

- Physical appearance: Max is described as slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggest a crafty and pointed countenance, reminiscent of a fox. This description portrays him as physically agile and possibly quick-witted.
- Determination and aggression: Max threatens Ausable with a pistol and demands the important report that Ausable is expecting. His aggressive actions demonstrate his determination and willingness to take risks.
- Knowledge of Ausable's activities: Max seems to be aware of Ausable's involvement in receiving the important report and displays knowledge of their respective roles as secret agents.
- Agility: Max swiftly reacts to the arrival of the waiter by escaping through the window onto the balcony. This suggests that he believes he is quick-witted and able to think on his feet, and adapt to changing situations. However, in situations of stress, he is incapable to keep his cool. His rash decision and his blind trust killed him in the end.

13. How did Ausable's presence of mind help him?

- Ausable's presence of mind played a crucial role in helping him navigate the situation and deal with Max effectively.
 - Maintaining composure: Despite Max's sudden appearance and the threatening situation, Ausable manages to remain relatively calm and composed. This allows him to think more clearly and make rational decisions.

- **Quick thinking and adaptability:** When faced with unexpected events, such as the arrival of the waiter and the knocking at the door, Ausable quickly assesses the situation and adapts his plans accordingly. For example, he takes advantage of the waiter's entrance to create a distraction, enabling Max to become momentarily disoriented.
- **Utilizing deception:** Ausable cleverly employs deception to mislead Max. He creates the illusion of a balcony and a potential police presence, causing Max to believe that he has limited options for escape. Ausable's ability to think on his feet and deceive his adversary allows him to gain an advantage in the situation.
- **Strategic use of timing:** Ausable carefully times his actions and statements to manipulate Max's perception and behavior. For instance, he mentions the appointment time of twelve-thirty, which suggests that Max has limited time to obtain the report. By doing so, Ausable adds pressure to the situation, potentially causing Max to act impulsively.
- **Seizing opportunities:** Ausable capitalizes on the moment when Max is distracted by the knocking at the door and the arrival of the waiter. He takes advantage of this opportunity to create a diversion and escape from Max's presence, ensuring his own safety.

14. What is the significance of the title of the story?

- The significance of the title "The Midnight Visitor" suggests the presence of an unexpected guest or intruder during the late hours of the night. The title sets the tone of mystery and suspense, hinting at a pivotal event that occurs under the cover of darkness. It intrigues the reader and raises questions about the identity and purpose of the visitor.
- The significance of the title becomes evident as the story unfolds. It introduces Max, who enters Ausable's room unexpectedly, demanding an

important report. The title foreshadows this pivotal encounter, emphasizing the element of surprise and the potential threat posed by the visitor.

- Furthermore, the title contributes to the atmosphere of tension and suspense throughout the narrative. It evokes a sense of unease, as the reader anticipates the consequences of the visitor's arrival and the ensuing conflict between Ausable and Max.

15. Discuss the themes of appearance vs reality and deception in the story.

- **Deception:** The story revolves around the deceptive actions of Ausable, who uses his wit and improvisation to mislead Max and create advantageous situations. Deception serves as a prominent theme, highlighting the strategic thinking and cunning employed by Ausable.
- **Appearance vs. Reality:** The contrast between Ausable's outward appearance as a fat, unassuming man and his true capabilities as a secret agent plays with the theme of appearance versus reality. It challenges stereotypes and preconceived notions about what a secret agent should look like, emphasizing the importance of looking beyond superficial appearances.