

Teacher's Guide

Flight

A complete guide to teaching the ManWrites short-story lesson

LEVEL	FORMAT	AUDIENCE
B1–B2	Flexible lesson sequence	Teenage and adult learners

1. Lesson at a Glance

Teaching principle: The full pack is a flexible resource bank. Choose activities to suit your class; there is no need to complete every exercise in one lesson.

Story type	Realistic coming-of-age story about compassion, doubt and letting go
Main characters	The boy, his father and Elsie the seagull
Core language level	B1–B2
Core lesson time	Approximately 90 minutes, with selected follow-up activities
Extended sequence	Two or three lessons, including speaking and creative writing
Main skills	Reading, vocabulary, speaking, interpretation and writing

Learning objectives

- Follow the narrative sequence and explain how the boy cares for and releases Elsie.
- Explore character motivation, family relationships and the significance of the title.
- Use context and vocabulary exercises to develop word knowledge.
- Support comprehension answers and interpretations with evidence from the story.
- Develop spoken fluency through discussion, role play and debate.
- Plan and write a short story from Elsie's perspective.

Before the lesson

- Read the story and select suitable questions, vocabulary and follow-up activities.
- Open the presentations and test full-screen display and slide navigation.
- Keep the Reading Comprehension Answer Keys open alongside the story presentation.
- Choose a reading approach and print only the lesson-plan pages students need.

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2. Choose a Teaching Route

Route A: Focused 60-minute lesson

Best after students have read the story for homework. If this is their first reading, allow extra time or spread the lesson over two sessions.

1. Introductory questions — 5 minutes
2. Revisit selected story sections — 15 minutes
3. Selected comprehension questions — 15 minutes
4. One vocabulary activity — 10 minutes
5. Selected discussion questions — 10 minutes
6. Exit reflection — 5 minutes

Route B: Core 90-minute lesson

1. Introductory questions — 10 minutes
2. Read the story in sections — 25 minutes
3. Comprehension check — 20 minutes
4. Selected vocabulary practice — 15 minutes
5. Discussion — 15 minutes
6. Review and set a follow-up task — 5 minutes

Route C: Extended sequence

Lesson	Focus	Suggested content
1	Story and understanding	Introduction, Sections 1–13, selected vocabulary, comprehension and True or False
2	Language and interpretation	Vocabulary practice, discussion and The Walk Home role play
3	Critical and creative response	Wild-animal debate, planning Flying, writing and review

Homework option: Set one vocabulary exercise, vocabulary notebook practice, or a plan for Flying between lessons. Students can complete the story as writing homework.

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3. Teaching the Core Lesson

A. Introduce the theme

Use the three introductory questions to explore how birds learn to fly and what students might do if they found a young bird. Invite predictions about the boy's challenge without revealing the ending.

B. Read and present the story

- First encounter: read for general meaning without stopping for every unfamiliar word.
- Section sequence: the combined story presentation contains 13 sections, each followed by its comprehension questions. Move through it at the pace of the class.
- Prediction: pause after Section 12, before the final outcome, and ask what students think will happen to Elsie.

C. Check comprehension

There are 52 questions. For a shorter lesson, choose 12–18 covering the boy's care, the adults' responses, the release and the ending. For a longer lesson, allocate questions to pairs before checking together.

Use the presentations in tandem: Keep the story presentation and Reading Comprehension Answer Keys open together. Show the story question, allow thinking and discussion, then switch to its numbered question-and-answer slide when needed. Keep answers hidden until students have responded.

Ask students to identify the detail supporting each answer. Accept equivalent wording and distinguish an interpretation from an explicitly stated fact. Model answers are also available in the story presentation's presenter notes.

D. Teach vocabulary

The Essential Vocabulary presentation covers 45 words and phrases. Each item appears alone first, followed by a slide with a meaning and example sentence. Ask students to suggest both before revealing the model.

- Pre-teach only words that block understanding; encourage inference for the rest.
- Vocabulary notebook: record a definition and write an original sentence.
- Use True or False for review. For synonyms, antonyms, matching and gap fill, work alone, compare in pairs, then check the answer slide.

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4. Speaking, Activities and Writing

Discussion questions

The pack includes 30 prompts. Select 6–10, moving from the boy's feelings and family relationships to perseverance, compassion and the meaning of Flight. Choose among overlapping prompts rather than asking every question.

- Allow a minute for students to think or make notes.
- Begin in pairs, then invite ideas from the whole class.
- Follow up with "What makes you think that?" or "Which detail supports your view?"

Role play: The Walk Home

Pairs play the boy and Dad after Elsie has flown away. This is a new conversation, not a recreation of the story's dialogue. The boy explains how Dad's mockery and doubt affected him. Dad decides whether to admit he was wrong or continue making jokes and excuses. Allow preparation and practice before performances.

Debate: Raising wild animals

The motion is: "This house believes that children should not be allowed to raise wild animals, even briefly." Team A supports the motion; Team B opposes it. Allow 10 minutes to prepare, then openings of 2 minutes per team, rebuttals of 2 minutes each and closing statements of 1 minute each. The remaining students vote on the more convincing case.

For a simpler option, discuss the motion without fixed teams. Invite students to agree or disagree and give reasons. Assess clear arguments, evidence and responses to other views.

Writing: Flying

Students imagine they are Elsie and tell her story in the first person. Include being found and cared for, learning to fly, struggling with the wind, being in the sky and leaving the boy behind. Begin planning in class; writing can be homework. Students may read their story aloud or submit it for teacher feedback.

Sensitive discussion: The father's behaviour and family relationships may feel personal. Students can discuss the fictional characters without sharing their own family experiences. Treat the bird-care episode as a story to examine, not practical animal-care instructions.

5. Classroom Resource Directory

Use the presentations separately or together, choosing only those needed for the lesson route. Advance to the next slide to reveal exercise answers. Use this directory to find the teaching resource for each activity.

No.	Resource	Best use
1	Introductory Questions	Explore the theme through three questions.
2	Story and Reading Comprehension	Read 13 sections and answer 52 questions.
3	Essential Vocabulary	Predict meanings and examples for 45 items, then compare.
4	True or False	Check ten statements and correct false ones.
5	Synonyms	Choose the closest meaning from four options.
6	Antonyms	Choose the opposite meaning from four options.
7	Words and Meanings	Match ten meanings to the visible word bank.
8	Gap Fill	Complete ten sentences using each bank item once.
9	Discussion Questions	Select from 30 prompts for speaking.
10	Role Play	Create The Walk Home conversation.
11	Debate	Argue the motion or use the class discussion option.
12	Writing	Plan, write, check and share Flying.
13	Reading Comprehension Answer Keys	Use all 52 model answers alongside the story slides.
14	Exercise Answer Keys	Check the five exercises in one combined presentation.
15	Full lesson plan	Read or print the story, tasks and complete answer keys.

Two answer-key presentations: Keep the Reading Comprehension key with the story presentation. Use the combined Exercise Answer Keys for True or False, Synonyms, Antonyms, Words and Meanings, and Gap Fill.

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6. Differentiation and Classroom Management

Support for B1 learners

- Pre-teach 8–12 essential items and provide sentence starters for discussion.
- Read in short sections and check the sequence after each one.
- Allow pair preparation before students answer publicly.
- Use the simplified class discussion instead of a formal debate.

Challenge for B2 learners

- Distinguish what the narrator states from what readers infer about Dad and Mum.
- Require evidence and consider alternative interpretations of Flight and the ending.
- Develop rebuttals about responsibility, intentions and expertise.
- In Flying, sustain Elsie's viewpoint and use sensory detail to convey changing emotions.

Mixed-level classes

- Allocate different comprehension questions to pairs, then mix groups for feedback.
- Give speaking roles suited to confidence: moderator, note-taker, evidence finder or reporter.
- Set a smaller core vocabulary target and optional extension items.

Assessment suggestions

- Reading: accuracy, sequence and evidence for inference.
- Vocabulary: appropriate meanings and accurate use in an original sentence.
- Speaking: clarity, interaction, relevant detail and responses to other views.
- Writing: organisation, consistent first-person viewpoint, description of feelings and language control.

Answer keys

Complete answers appear at the end of the lesson plan and in the two answer-key presentations. The Reading Comprehension key contains 52 question-and-answer pairs. The Exercise Answer Keys cover the five exercises, including corrected false statements, full meanings and completed gap-fill sentences.

Accept equivalent wording when the meaning is accurate and supported by the story. Introductory questions, discussion, role play, debate and creative writing are open-ended; they do not have a single correct answer.

Final reminder: Choose a route and keep the story central. Use the activities to deepen understanding and communication, leaving time for students to think, respond and enjoy the story.

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