English First Flight

PADIKAM LEARNING CONTENT
PADIKAM
Language and Literature
First Flight
Class 10 Study Notes
9 chapters
Nine current units. Prose, drama and poems are studied together with writing and literary-response practice.
Padikam explanations are independently written. The NCERT book is used only for chapter order, standard terminology and coverage.

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How to use this note
Read the quick understanding first, recall the key points aloud, then answer the exam prompts without looking back.
Official book source
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?jeff1=0-9

LESSON 1
Unit 1: A Letter to God | Dust of Snow | Fire and Ice

Quick understanding
Lencho's absolute faith meets an ironic misunderstanding; the poems show how a small natural moment can repair a mood and how destructive human emotions can end a world.
Must remember Exam practice
Lencho trusts God but wrongly suspects the people who help him.
Explain the irony in Lencho's response to the money.
The dust of snow becomes a turning point from regret to renewed attention.
Compare the compact symbolism of the two poems.
Fire and ice symbolise desire and hatred; both can destroy.
Literary craft
Irony and third-person narration
Symbolism
Rhyme, contrast and compression
One-line recall Lencho trusts God but wrongly suspects the people who help him.

LESSON 2
Unit 2: Nelson Mandela | A Tiger in the Zoo
Quick understanding
Mandela connects personal freedom with collective justice; the poem contrasts a tiger's natural power with the confinement of a cage.
Must remember Exam practice
Courage is victory over fear, not absence of fear. Explain Mandela's twin obligations.
Oppression harms the humanity of both oppressed How does movement and stillness build
and oppressor. contrast in the poem?
The tiger's silent anger exposes the unnaturalness
of captivity.
Literary craft
Autobiographical reflection
Contrast and imagery
Repetition and controlled tone
One-line recall Courage is victory over fear, not absence of fear.
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LESSON 3
Unit 3: Two Stories about Flying | How to Tell
Wild Animals | The Ball Poem
Quick understanding
A young seagull and a frightened pilot face fear in different ways; the poems use comic exaggeration and a lost ball to explore danger, loss and growing up.
Must remember Exam practice
Need and encouragement push the seagull into his Compare fear in the two flying stories.
first flight.
Why is the ball more than a toy?
The mysterious pilot creates suspense without a final
explanation.
The boy must learn that some losses cannot be
reversed by replacement.
Literary craft
Suspense and sensory description
Comic rhyme and hyperbole
Symbolism and reflective tone
One-line recall Need and encouragement push the seagull into his first flight.
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LESSON 4
Unit 4: From the Diary of Anne Frank | Amanda!
Quick understanding
Anne uses a diary to think honestly about school, loneliness and identity; Amanda imagines freedom while adult commands crowd her inner world.
Must remember Exam practice
Anne treats writing as a trusted listener and shows Why does Anne need a diary despite
unusual self-awareness. having friends?
Her humorous essays transform punishment into How do commands and fantasies create
communication. the poem's structure?
Amanda's fantasies reveal a child's need for space,
not simple disobedience.
Literary craft
First-person diary voice
Humour and characterisation

Refrain, contrast and visual imagery
One-line recall Anne treats writing as a trusted listener and shows unusual self-awareness.
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LESSON 5
Unit 5: Glimpses of India | The Trees
Quick understanding
Three accounts present Goa's bread tradition, Coorg's landscape and courage, and Assam's tea culture; the poem imagines trees breaking from a house into the forest.
Must remember Exam practice
Local food, work and landscape preserve cultural memory. Compare how two sections create a sense of place.
Travel writing joins factual observation with sensory detail. Interpret the trees' movement as a symbol.
The moving trees suggest nature reclaiming freedom from human confinement.
Literary craft
Travel sketch and local detail
Personification
Extended metaphor and sound imagery
One-line recall Local food, work and landscape preserve cultural memory.
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LESSON 6
Unit 6: Mijbil the Otter | Fog
Quick understanding
Maxwell's bond with Mij reveals an animal's intelligence and individuality; the poem turns fog into a quiet cat that arrives, watches and leaves.
Must remember Exam practice
Careful observation replaces the idea that animals are interchangeable pets. How does Mij develop as an individual character?
Mij's playfulness creates both affection and comic disorder. Why is the cat comparison effective?
The fog metaphor captures silent, temporary movement.
Literary craft
Memoir and anecdote
Humour
Metaphor and concise free verse
One-line recall Careful observation replaces the idea that animals are interchangeable pets.
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LESSON 7
Unit 7: Madam Rides the Bus | The Tale of Custard the Dragon
Quick understanding
Valli plans an independent bus journey and returns with a more mature awareness of life; Custard proves that real courage differs from boastful appearance.
Must remember Exam practice
Valli's planning shows curiosity, discipline and self-respect. Trace Valli's change during the journey.
Explain the poem's irony about bravery.
The dead cow changes the emotional meaning of the return journey.
Custard acts when danger arrives while the proud

characters retreat.
Literary craft
Character-centred narrative
Contrast and circular journey
Ballad rhythm, repetition and irony
One-line recall Valli's planning shows curiosity, discipline and self-respect.
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LESSON 8
Unit 8: The Sermon at Benares | For Anne
Gregory
Quick understanding
Kisa Gotami learns that death is universal and grief must grow into understanding; the poem questions whether love reaches beyond outward beauty.
Must remember Exam practice
The mustard-seed task transforms private sorrow Why does the Buddha send Kisa Gotami through shared human experience. from house to house?
Acceptance does not erase love; it changes the What argument develops between the sufferer's relation to loss. poem's two voices?
The poem contrasts physical attraction with the desire to be valued inwardly.
Literary craft
Parable and repetition
Dialogue
Symbolism of hair colour and inward self
One-line recall The mustard-seed task transforms private sorrow through shared human experience.
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LESSON 9
Unit 9: The Proposal
Quick understanding
Amarriage proposal becomes a comic battle over land, dogs and pride, exposing social calculation beneath romantic convention.
Must remember Exam practice
Lomov, Natalya and Chubukov are ruled by property, How does conflict create comedy?
status and temper.
Write a character sketch of Natalya or
Arguments repeatedly displace the practical aim of Lomov.
marriage.
The rushed ending resolves the proposal but not the characters' incompatibility.
Literary craft
Farce
Rapid dialogue and stage directions
Dramatic irony and repetition
One-line recall Lomov, Natalya and Chubukov are ruled by property, status and temper.
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