



The story of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* is delivered using third person point of view. A narrator is telling the story about Jonathan, so Jonathan's name is used many times, along with descriptions of what "he" is doing.

“.... A hundred feet in the sky he lowered his webbed feet ..... (Bach. 3).”

“He narrowed his eyes in fierce concentration, held his breath, forced one ... single ... more ... inch ... of ... curve ... Then his feathers ruffled, he stalled and fell (Bach. 3).”

Jonathan in the story is the main character. He is described as a lonely seagull who does not care about the customs of the flock but rather follows his inner desire of gathering more knowledge and skills. He is a seagull who is passionate about flying and striving for perfection.

“But way off alone, out by himself beyond boat and shore, Jonathan Livingston Seagull was practicing (Bach. 3).”

A hundred feet in the sky he lowered his webbed feet, lifted his beak, and strained to hold a painful hard twisting curve through his wings. The curve meant that he would fly slowly, and now he slowed until the wind was a whisper in his face, until the ocean stood still beneath him (Bach. 3).

### 3.1.1 Strong spirit

Jonathan's passion to learn about low flying makes his parents dismay. His father says, "this flying business is all very well, but you can't eat a glide, you know. Don't you forget that the reason you fly is to eat (Bach 15)." Then, for the next few days Jonathan tries to behave like the other gulls, but then, he realizes that it is all so pointless. He thinks that deliberately dropping a hard-won anchovy to a hungry old gull chasing him, he can be spending all this time learning to fly.

Jonathan nodded obediently. For the next few days he tried to behave like the other gulls; he really tried, screeching and fighting with the flock around the piers and fishing boats, diving on scraps of fish and bread. But he couldn't make it work. It's all so pointless, he thought, deliberately dropping a hard-won anchovy to a hungry old gull chasing him. I could be spending all this time learning to fly. There's so much to learn! It wasn't long before Jonathan Gull was off by himself again, far out sea, hungry, happy, learning (Bach 5).

It shows that Jonathan's learning in perfection makes Jonathan have strong spirit. Jonathan had tried to behave like the other gulls but he found that it was all so pointless and he decided to spend his time to learn to fly instead. It shows that Jonathan's aware of what it is that attracts him and his decision to choose his choice to learn in flying instead of screeching and fighting with the flock to find and eat scraps of fish is a proof that his free will to perfect himself in learning more about flying makes him have strong spirit to achieve it. Jonathan is attracted to learn more in flying because he wants to know what he can and cannot do in the air. He uses his rationality to see what he can and cannot do in the air and perfect himself.







hour. It took tremendous strength, but it worked. In ten seconds he had blurred through ninety miles per hour. Jonathan had set a world speed record for seagulls! (Bach. 6).

His successful achievement of knowing how to fly at high speed and of setting a world speed record is followed by another problem that is how to do a pullout at that speed in its vertical dive. In other words how to fly at high speed and to control it. When he begins his pullout by changing the angle of his wings, he snaps into the same terrible uncontrolled disaster.

The instant he began his pullout, the instant he changed the angle of his wings, he snapped into that same terrible uncontrolled disaster, and at ninety miles per hour it hit him like dynamite. Jonathan Seagull exploded in midair and smashed down into a brick-hard sea (Bach. 6).

This failure in the beginning makes him want to end his learning in flying at high speed but his strong spirit coupled with his courage to never give up motivate and push him to get up to strive to find the way how to fly at high speed and under control.

His wings were ragged bars of lead, but the weight of failure was even heavier on his back. He wished, feebly, that the weight could be just enough to drag him gently down to the bottom, and end it all. My father was right. I must forget this foolishness. I must fly home to the Flock and be content as I am, as a poor limited seagull. But no, he thought. I am done with the way I was, I am done with everything I learned. I am a seagull like every other seagull, and I will fly like one. So he climbed painfully to a hundred feet and flapped his wings harder, pressing for shore (Bach. 7).

It is rationality which gives man intellectual operation to perfect himself (Cronan 61). Jonathan's rationality to know what he can and cannot do empowers him to make a reflection and evaluation of what he has done. It can be seen after his failure in doing his pullout in its vertical dive.

As he sank low in the water, a strange hollow voice sounded within him. There's no way around it. I am a seagull. I am limited by my nature. If I were meant to learn so much about flying, I'd have charts for brains. If I were meant to fly at speed, I'd have a falcon's short wings, and live on mice instead of fish (Bach 7).

Rationality empowers man to see what he can and cannot do and perfect himself like what Jonathan has showed. His rationality makes him be able to do an evaluation of what he has done in learning how to fly at high speed. This is to the human being, who is able to think critically of why he can do that and cannot do that, of how to face the problems or obstacles and then how to find different ways in order to solve it. It can be seen from Jonathan's evaluation saying that he is limited by his nature since he does not have charts for brains and does not have a falcon's short wings to fly at high speed. Because of his rationality, he finds the cause of why he cannot fly at high speed. It is because he does not have a falcon's short wings, but at the same time it also makes him find the way of what he can do, of what he should do in order to fly at high speed that is he should have a falcon's short wings.

There in the night, a hundred feet in the air, Jonathan Livingston Seagull—blinked. His pain, his resolutions, vanished. Short wings. A falcon's short wings! That's the answer! What a fool I've been! All I need is a tiny little



wing, all I need is to fold most of my wings and fly on just the tips alone!  
Short wings! (Bach. 8).

It shows that learning in perfection makes him have innovative ability to find, to seek out, and to do different ways in order to solve the obstacles and to achieve what he wants. In the oxford advanced learner's dictionary, innovative means introducing or using new ideas, techniques, etc. Therefore, someone who has innovative ability is the one who has the ability to find out new ideas or techniques in doing things. In other words he has the ability to find different ways of doing things. Having innovative ability in achievement means he or she has the ability to find new techniques and use them in order to achieve his or her goal.

Learning in perfection to know what he can and cannot do empowers Jonathan to find a new technique how to fly at high speed that is to use short wings; to fold most of his wings and fly on just the tips alone. It is the proof that his learning in perfection makes Jonathan have innovative ability.

Having innovative ability is needed in achievement. It is also stated by McClelland. He says that individuals high in need for achievement should be more restless and avoid routine. They should be more innovative. They should be more likely to seek out information to find better ways of doing things (249). Therefore, innovative ability as the result of learning in perfection will help someone find new techniques to achieve what he or she wants like what Jonathan has showed.

The wind was a monster roar at his head. Seventy miles per hour, ninety, a hundred and twenty and faster still. The wing-strain now at a hundred and forty miles per hour wasn't nearly as hard as it had been before at seventy, and with the faintest twist of his wingtips he eased out of the dive and shot above the waves, a grey cannonball under the moon. He closed his eyes to slits against the wind and rejoiced. A hundred forty miles per hour! And under control! (Bach. 11)

Jonathan's innovative ability helps him learn and achieve how to fly at high speed and under control. Moreover, it also helps him find other findings in flying. He discovered the loop, the slow roll, the point roll, the inverted spin, the gull bunt, the pinwheel.

Jonathan's passion to perfect himself in flying becomes his goal of life. The reason why he wants to perfect himself in flying is because he wants to know what he can and cannot do in the air. This kind of thinking motivates him to learn more about flying. He begins with his curiosity about slow and low flying above the water.

He lowered his webbed feet, lifted his beak, and strained to hold a painful hard twisting curve through his wings. The curve meant that he would fly slowly, and now he slowed until the wind was a whisper in his face, until the ocean stood still beneath him. He narrowed his eyes in fierce concentration, held his breath, forced one single more inch of curve. Then his feathers ruffled, he stalled and fell (Bach 3).

Although he stalls and falls, but he does not give up to learn about slow and low flying. He still tries to make hundreds of low level glides, experimenting (Bach

4). Moreover, seagulls never falter, never stall. To stall in the air is for them disgrace and it is dishonor. Nevertheless, Jonathan is unashamed and stretches his wings again in that trembling hard curve slowing, slowing and stalling once more. Finally he can stay in the air longer, with less effort by flying at altitudes less than half his wingspan above the water.

When he flew at altitudes less than half his wingspan above the water he could stay in the air longer, with less effort. His glides ended not with the usual feet-down splash into the sea, but with a long flat wake as he touched the surface with his feet tightly streamlined against his body (Bach 4).

It shows that his reason to know what he can and cannot do in low flying motivates him to keep learning, experimenting and doing hundreds of low-level glides until finally he can know how to stay in the air longer with less effort. Therefore, his learning in perfection to know what he can and cannot do in the air makes him have great courage to never give up in learning about low flying. His courage to never give up has helped and given him a great contribution in his achievement of knowing how to stay in the air longer with less effort.

Therefore, the courage to never give up is important in achievement because it can support and strengthen one's motivation to face and to overcome difficult obstacles and or failures like what Jonathan has showed. Although he stalls and falls at the first learning, but he still tries hundreds of low-level glides until he finally can know how to fly longer in the air with less effort.

Learning in perfection means learning to perfect himself for the sake of the unlimited goodness of anything in which human's rationality and free will as the image of God is realized and attracted. His perfection meets its full completeness and actualization into existence through others in which he can share, learn, and communicate to find the good in every one of themselves.

At this stage, the writer finds that Jonathan's learning to perfect himself in flying makes him have a high desire to know and understand. The need to know and understand helps Jonathan reach a perfect speed in flying as his achievement in heaven.

When he arrives in heaven, his feathers glow brilliant white and his wings are smooth and perfect as sheets of polished silver. With his new wings, Jonathan is more eager to learn about perfect speed. He finds that why though it is much faster than his old level flight record but it is still a limit that will take great effort to crack. In heaven, he thinks that there should be no limits (Bach. 16).

When he is out with his instructor, Jonathan thinks that why there are few gulls in heaven (Bach. 18). Moreover, when the gulls that are not night flying stand together on the sand, Jonathan asks Chiang whether there is such place as heaven (Bach. 20).



Choosing the next world through what man learn in this perfection means that how man reaches what he or she wants is influenced by learning in using the intellectual operation of human mind: rationality as the image of God to know what it is that attracts him, to follow his free will, to respond and evaluate what he has done in order to solve obstacles and find a better ways in reaching what he or she wants.

It is also supported by Gestalt statement that learning is a cognitive phenomenon. The learner thinks about all of the ingredients necessary to solve a problem and puts them together (cognitively) first one way and then another until the problem is solved (Hergenhahn and Olson 261). Therefore, learning in perfection that is the unlimited goodness of anything in which human's rationality and free will as the image of God is realized and attracted will influence human's process learning in solving obstacles and in achieving what he or she wants.

In addition, the quality of what he or she wants is also influenced by his or her intellectual operation, rationality in valuing the life. Most of the flock on earth believes that life is the unknown and the unknowable, except that we are put into this world to eat, to stay alive as long as we possible can (Bach 35).

All in all , Jonathan is symbol as a human being. The people who follow their dreams and make their own rules. Jonathan learning perfection in flying is described man learn in perfection. It means that how man reaches what he or she wants is influenced by learning in using the intellectual operation of human mind, rationality as the image of God to know what it is that attracts him, to follow his free will, to









The answers of his high desire to know and understand help him know what he should do and then guide him to solve obstacles and achieve his goal. It is also supported by Maslow that states that desire to know and understand is related to the satisfaction of the basic needs. It is related to the ability to satisfy all human needs. In other words, knowing and understanding are thought to be tools used in solving problems and overcoming obstacles (Hergentan and Olson 480). His high desire to know and understand has helped him know and understand who he really is, what and how he should achieve a perfect speed as his achievement in heaven.

Then one day Jonathan, standing on the shore, closing his eyes, concentrating, all in a flash knew what Chiang had been telling him. “Why, that’s true! I am a perfect, unlimited gull!” He felt a great shock of joy. “Good!” said Chiang, and there was victory in his voice. Jonathan opened his eyes (Bach. 29). He stood alone with the Elder on a totally different seashore trees down to the water’s edge, twin yellow suns turning overhead.

### **3.2.6 Symbol of Instructor**

Instructor is the important symbol, in the story it has relation with Jonathan. Instructor symbolizes kindness and love. Learning in perfection is directed to and for the sake of kindness and love. Perfection meets its full completeness and actualization in loving others to help them see their real goodness as the image of God and by this sharing of perfection within self and others in reciprocal will complete and perfect



From the quotation above, love to help each other is needed in achievement since in the process of achieving; of having a desire to overcome obstacles, to exercise power, to strive to do something difficult as well and as quickly as possible needs situations in which people have personal responsibility for the outcome and that give them feedback on how well they are doing (McClelland 595). In knowing how well they are doing it needs others to give them feedback and or comparison whether he or she is more capable of doing something. In other words, love to help each other will help and give them feedback in the process of achievement. This feedback can be in the form of anything. It can be a suggestion, a pressure, or a demonstration. Therefore, love to help others will help and guide others achieve what they want like what Jonathan has showed in loving to help his students learn in flying.

Love to help others see the goodness in every one of them has helped Kirk Maynard Gull to learn to fly. Maynard Gull cannot move his wings and asks Jonathan to help him fly. Jonathan who has learned about perfection realized that each of them has the powerful ability to perfect themselves; to make the unlimited goodness of anything. They are rationality and free will. The problem is whether they realize and want to use them or not to achieve what they want. Jonathan says to Maynard that he has the freedom to be himself, his true self, here and now.

“Maynard Gull, you have the freedom to be yourself, your true self, here and now, and nothing can stand in your way. It is the Law of the Great Gull, the Law that Is.”

“Are you saying I can fly?”

“I say you are free.” (Bach. 40)

Then, Maynard Gull spreads his wings, effortlessly, and lifts into the dark night air and says, “I can fly! Listen! I CAN FLY!” (Bach. 40). It shows that Maynard’s successful achievement to fly is because he has realized his true self as the image of God who has the powerful ability to perfect himself through rationality and free will to be what he wants. Because of Jonathan’s help, Maynard becomes to know his freedom. It becomes the proof that in achieving a goal it needs others as a medium to give them feedback and or comparison. Love to help each other will help and guide people achieve what they want.

All in all from the analysis above, there are connected with all symbol relates in Jonathan as human being. In fact, in order to discover himself, he must remove himself from eating (fixation) of the flock (society) thus he become an outcast because he need to let go the comfort zone to search for the heaven of his desire (perfection).

