



THE BOY AND THE AIRPLANE VIDEO DISCUSSION

Taking Flight with Pilot Rose Ellen May

1. Do you want to be a pilot? If yes, why? If no, why?
2. Pilot Rose Ellen May talks about “stalling” which is when the wind flow above the plane’s wing is cut off and the plane floats in air for a few seconds. What do you imagine that feels like for the people inside the plane?
3. Amelia Earhart was one of the first female pilots! Even though she knew flying was dangerous, she still wanted to follow her dreams. Can you think of a time where you did something you were afraid of but did it anyway?
4. To be a pilot, you need to know a lot about computers, mathematics, engineering, and science! Why do you think that is? What part of flying involves the sciences?

Gyroplanes: Lawn Chairs in the Sky!

1. Gyroplanes are considered the “Lawn Chairs” of the sky. This is because they are made of a single seat and the mechanics of a plane, minus the planes exoskeleton. What do you think about gyroplanes?
2. A gyroplane cannot hover like a helicopter even though it looks very similar to one. What is another example of two things that look similar, but do very different things?
3. Less than 1% of America can fly a plane. What are some factors that people must consider before learning how to fly a plane and why do you believe so few people learn to fly a plane despite it being a very fun and safe thing to learn?
4. The auto-gyro is compared to both a maple seed and a children’s toy. If you were to make an invention based on a toy or a plant. What would inspire you and what would you invent? Draw it on the back of this paper.

STEM Read and SmartSpace@NIU are part of Northern Illinois University’s STEAM Works Initiative.

