**Jonathan Livingston Seagull**

***Jonathan Livingston Seagull***, written by American author [Richard Bach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Bach) and illustrated by Russell Munson, is a [fable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fable) in [novella](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novella) form about a [seagull](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gull) who is trying to learn about life and flight, and a [homily](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homily) about self-perfection. Bach wrote it as a series of short stories that were published in [*Flying*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_%28magazine%29) magazine in the late 1960s. It was first published in book form in 1970.

**Plot**: The book tells the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a seagull who is bored with daily squabbles over food. Seized by a passion for flight, he pushes himself and learns everything he can about flying. His increasing unwillingness to conform finally results in his expulsion from the flock. Now an outcast, he continues to learn, becoming increasingly pleased with his abilities while leading a peaceful and happy life.

One day Jonathan meets two gulls who take him to a "higher plane of existence" in which there is no heaven, but a better world found through perfection of knowledge. There he meets another seagull who loves to fly. He discovers that his sheer tenacity and desire to learn make him "pretty well a one-in-a-million bird." In this new place, Jonathan befriends the wisest gull, Chiang, who takes him beyond his previous self-education, and teaches him how to move instantaneously to anywhere else in the [Universe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe). The secret, Chiang says, is to "begin by knowing that you have already arrived."

But, unsatisfied with his new life, Jonathan returns to Earth to find others like himself to tell them what he'd learned and to spread his love for flight. His mission is successful, and Jonathan gathers around himself a flock of other gulls who have been outlawed for not conforming. The first of his students, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, ultimately becomes a teacher in his own right, and Jonathan leaves to teach other flocks

**Definitions of notions**

**What is self-perfection?**

The systematic improving of qualities and habits of behaviour, whether moral, physical or ethical, constitutes the activity of **self**-**perfection**. ... This will normally be in order to correspond with some determined ideal, depending on the social and historical conditions under which a person lives.

**What is positive thinking?**

**Positive thinking** is the idea that you can change your life by thinking positively about things. This idea can sound a bit soft and fluffy, which is something of a problem for many people who recognise that just thinking good thoughts won't change the world and therefore discard the whole idea.

**What is human potential?**

**Human potential** is the capacity for humans to [improve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Improvement) themselves through [studying](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studying), [training](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Training), and [practice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Practice_%28learning_method%29), to reach the limit of their ability to develop [aptitudes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aptitude) and [skills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skill) .

**Videos**

1. **Video Jonathan Livingston Seagull – simplified and illustrated story:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APw8TdGi40o>

1. **Full story:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8COt1n3jDqA>