

# 1st Chapter Of English For Class 10

## FIRST FLIGHT

---

### 1. A LETTER TO GOD

G.L. Fuentes

#### Summary

'A Letter to God' is a story of a farmer's extreme faith in God. The writer G.L. Fuentes has tried to depict the faith of a poor and simple farmer in God in an impressive manner. Lencho was an honest and hardworking farmer. He was shocked to notice that his crop was ruined in a hailstorm. He turned to God for getting some help. He wrote a letter to God. On Sunday, he posted the letter. When an employee of the post office chanced to see the letter addressed to God, he made fun of the man who had written that letter but his boss, the postmaster was a serious man and did not take the letter lightly. He was impressed by the extreme faith of the man and wished to have the same faith. He decided to answer the letter. He collected money from his employees to give in charity to the needy farmer. He was able to collect only seventy pesos and thought that the farmer would be glad to receive the money. But to his utter disappointment, the postmaster was shocked to notice that it had made Lencho angry, who wrote another letter to God but with a warning not to send the money by post as he considered the postal employees 'a bunch of crooks' who had stolen thirty pesos from the hundred pesos sent by Him.

## NCERT QUESTIONS

### Oral Comprehension Check

1. **What did Lencho hope for?**

**Ans.** Lencho hoped for getting a better crop that year.

2. **Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?**

**Ans.** Lencho said that the raindrops were like new coins because they were round in shape and almost of the same size. Secondly, he knew that good rain meant good crop which ultimately meant good money.

3. **How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?**

**Ans.** The pleasant and auspicious rain changed into a large hailstorm as a strong wind began to blow. Lencho's field was covered with snow and it looked white as if it were covered with salt.

4. **What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?**

**Ans.** When the hail stopped, Lencho was disappointed to see that the whole crop was spoiled. He felt very sad.

5. **Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?**

**Ans.** Lencho had faith in God alone. He wrote a letter to God.



6. Who read the letter?  
The postmaster read the letter.
7. What did the postmaster do then?  
The postmaster collected some money from the employees and sent it to the poor farmer.
8. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?  
No, Lencho was not surprised to find a letter for him from God with money in it. He took it very casually.
9. What made him angry?  
Lencho became angry to see only seventy pesos instead of hundred pesos.

### Thinking about the Text

1. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?  
Ans. Lencho had complete faith in God. The lines which show his extreme faith in God are:  
(i) Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God.  
(ii) God, if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year.  
'Lencho showed not, the slightest surprise on seeing the money.'  
'God could not have made a mistake'.  
'God: Of the money I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me, send me the rest.'
2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?  
Ans. The postmaster sent money to Lencho because he was extremely impressed by the extreme faith of a poor farmer in the supreme power of God. He signed the letter God because he didn't want to shake the poor man's faith in God.
3. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?  
Ans. No, Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him because he could not think that anybody other than God could have given him the money.
4. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation. (Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. An ironic situation is strange or amusing because it is the opposite of what is expected.)  
Ans. Lencho thought that the post office employees had taken the money. The irony is that the post office employees donated the money to help Lencho but he accused them of stealing the money from the envelope sent by God.
5. Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is?  
Ans. Yes, there are people like Lencho, who are innocent enough to think that the God would certainly help them as they have full faith in the supreme power of God. Lencho is a very simple man who had extreme faith in God; he is a man of clear conscience.  
Lencho is a simple and innocent fellow who is naive but not stupid. It was his firm faith in God that he thought of writing a letter to God. He has an unquestioning attitude.  
Though Lencho has immense faith in God, he is a poor judge of human nature. He lacks the value of gratefulness. What I like most about him is his immense faith in God and his simplicity.
6. There are two kinds of conflicts in the story 'A letter to God': between humans and nature and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?  
Ans. It is true that there are two kinds of conflicts in the story between humans and nature and between humans themselves. In the beginning of the story, Lencho is shocked to see the hailstorm wipe out the happiness along with the crop in the field. The moment Lencho was rejoicing at the rainfall, he did not know that it was the end of his happiness. On the other hand, Lencho who had extreme faith in the power of Almighty does not have the slightest trust in the employees of the post office. He considers them a bunch of crooks though they tried to help him.



### Reference-to-Context Questions

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. The house — the only one in the entire valley — sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho — who knew his fields intimately — had done nothing else but see the sky towards the north-east.

(a) The house was located on the .....

Ans. crest of a low hill

(b) The only thing the earth needed was .....

Ans. a downpour

(c) One could see huts and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers from the height of the hill.

Ans. False

(d) Find the word from the passage which means 'top of a hill'.

Ans. crest

2. "Now we're really going to get some water, woman." The woman who was preparing supper, replied, "Yes, God willing". The older boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house until the woman called to them all, "Come for dinner". It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the north-east huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet. The man went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body, and when he returned he exclaimed, "These aren't raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins. The big drops are ten cent pieces and the little ones are fives."

(a) Lencho compared the raindrops with the .....

Ans. silver coins

(b) The family was happy as the rain was much needed for a good .....

Ans. harvest

(c) The woman heard from Lencho that it was going to rain.

Ans. True

(d) Find the word from the passage which means 'symbol of prosperity'.

Ans. new coins.

3. With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.

(a) Lencho was satisfied as the rain outside was much ..... for a good harvest.

Ans. needed

(b) Suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large ..... began to fall.

Ans. hailstones

(c) Very large stones that came along with the rain resembled golden pearls.

Ans. False

(d) Find the words from the passage which means 'hailstones'.

Ans. 'Frozen pearls'.



4. "It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly." It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn."

(a) Lencho exclaimed with sadness that the ..... was getting bad as it was raining with hailstones.

Ans. weather

(b) Lencho was worried about how his family would ..... as the hailstones had completely destroyed the cornfield.

Ans. survive

(c) The hailstorm not only destroyed Lencho's cornfield but also damaged the whole valley.

Ans. True

(True/False)

(d) 'A plague of locusts' means .....

Ans. a large number of insects that can cause great damage to the crops.

5. That night was a sorrowful one. "All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us." "We'll all go hungry this year". But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God.

"Don't be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger."

"That's what they say: no one dies of hunger." All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at daybreak, he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail. It was nothing less than a letter to God.

(a) The single hope for the family was .....

Ans. help from God.

(b) Lencho at last decided to write ..... to God.

Ans. a letter

(c) Lencho believed that God does not let anyone die of hunger.

(True/False)

Ans. True

(d) Give the meaning of the word 'conscience' with reference to the extract.

Ans. a person's moral sense of right and wrong.

"God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm...."

He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox.

(a) Lencho requested God to send him .....

Ans. a hundred pesos

(b) At the post office Lencho placed a ..... on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox.

Ans. stamp

(c) Lencho wrote the letter to God because God will sow his field again.

(True/False)

Ans. False

(d) Find the synonym of the word 'anxious' from the extract.

Ans. troubled