



Class 10 English

A Letter to God Summary



"A Letter to God" is a story by G.L. Fuentes about a poor farmer named Lencho who strongly believes in God. Lencho, a simple and dedicated farmer, hoped for a good harvest. Unfortunately, a hailstorm destroyed all his crops. Seeing the damage, Lencho felt very sad, but he didn't lose faith in God. Despite being poor, Lencho knew how to read and write. He was sure that God would help him, so he decided to write a letter to God asking for a hundred pesos to plant his fields again and prevent his family from going hungry. Lencho then mailed the letter at the post office, believing that God would answer his plea.



When the postman took the letter from the mailbox, he laughed a lot while reading it. He quickly went to the postmaster and showed him the funny letter. The postmaster also laughed when he saw that the letter was for God. But, he was touched by the farmer's strong belief in God. He praised the farmer for his unwavering faith and decided to help. The postmaster asked the post office workers to donate some money as charity. He also gave a part of his own salary to make sure Lencho's faith in God stayed strong.



However, the money collected was a bit less than what Lencho had asked from God. The postmaster put all the money in an envelope and sent it to the poor farmer.

On the next Sunday, Lencho went to the post office to see if there was a letter for him. The postmaster gave him the letter. Lencho wasn't surprised to find money inside the envelope. He opened it to count the money but got upset because there were only seventy pesos, not the hundred he asked from God. Lencho was sure God wouldn't make such a big mistake. He quickly asked for paper and ink at the window, wrote another letter to God, and put it in the letterbox.



After Lencho left, the postmaster opened and read his letter right away. Lencho complained to God that he asked for a hundred pesos but got only seventy. He also accused the post office workers of stealing thirty pesos from his envelope. Lencho asked God to send him the rest of the money but not through the mail because he thought the post office workers were 'a bunch of crooks' and might have taken the money.



Letter

Postmaster



Conclusion of A Letter to God

In the chapter “A Letter to God,” we learned that believing in God can be really strong and can fulfill our needs. But, it’s also important to see that kindness and humanity exist alongside faith in God. The story nicely shows how Lencho truly believed in God, and at the same time, the post office workers anonymously helped him by giving money from their own pockets to support the poor man in trouble.



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. “Now we’re really going to get some water, woman.

” The woman who was preparing supper, replied, “Yes, God willing”.

(a) Where was Lencho’s house located?

(b) What was Lencho’s wife preparing?

(c) Find the word from the passage which means ‘very closely’.

(d) What does ‘Crest’ means?

Answer:

(a) Lencho’s house was located on the crest of a low hill.

(b) Lencho’s wife was preparing supper.

(c) The word is ‘Intimately’.

(d) Crest means the top part of a hill.



2.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.

(a) What could be seen approaching in the North-East?

(b) Why did Lencho go out?

(c) Give an antonym of the word Big.

(d) Which word in the passage is a synonym of ‘forecast’.

Answer:

(a) Huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching in the North-East.

(b) Lencho went out to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.

(c) The word is ‘small’.

(d) The word ‘predict’ is a synonym of forecast.



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 alongwith 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) What happened to the rain suddenly?**
- (b) ‘The frozen pearls’ refers to which thing in the paragraph.**
- (c) Find the similar meaning-of ‘contented’ in the paragraph.**
- (d) Find from the passage a word which means ‘to take after’.**

Answer:

- (a) The rain suddenly changed into hailstones.**
- (b) ‘The frozen pearls’ refers to hailstones.**
- (c) The word is ‘Satisfied’.**
- (d) The word is ‘Resemble’.**



4. 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.

- (a) Describe Lencho's feeling as shown in the passage.**
- (b) What happened to the crop when the storm had passed?**
- (c) Find the word that means the opposite of 'restored' as used in the passage.**
- (d) What do you mean by 'hail' in the last line?**

Answer:

- (a) Lencho was filled with sadness when the storm had passed.
- (b) The crop was completely destroyed when the storm had passed.
- (c) The word is 'destroyed'.
- (d) 'Hail' is balls of ice that falls from the sky in the form of rain.



5. “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. [CBSE 2014]

- (a) What was Lencho’s only hope?**
- (b) How did Lencho work in the field?**
- (c) Find the exact word of similar meaning ‘moral sense’ given in the passage.**
- (d) Explain ‘an ox of a man’.**

Answer:

- (a) Lencho’s only hope was the help of God.
- (b) Lencho worked as an ‘ox’ in the field.
- (c) The word is ‘conscience’.
- (d) It means a man working hard like an ox or animal



6. The postmaster- a fat, amiable fellow- also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and tapping the letter on his desk, commented. “What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!”

So, in order not to shake the writer’s faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution: he asked for money from his employees, he himself gave part of his salary and several friends of his were obliged to give something ‘for an act of charity’.

(a) What kind of a person the postmaster was?

(b) How did the postmaster help Lencho?

(c) Find the exact word in similar meaning ‘without delay’ given in the passage.

(d) Determination is synonymous with

Answer:

(a) The postmaster was a fat, amiable and helpful fellow.

(b) The postmaster helped Lencho by collecting money from his employees and friends.

(c) The word is ‘Immediately’.

(d) Determination is synonym with Resolution.



7.The following Sunday, Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from his office.

Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence, but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

(a) Why did Lencho come earlier to the post office?

(b) Why was Lencho angry when he counted money?

(c) Find the word which means the opposite of permitted from the passage.

(d) Which word in the passage gives the meaning ‘that one will be successful one day’.

Answer:

(a) Lencho came earlier to the post office to know if there was a letter for him.

(b) Lencho was angry when he counted money as it was not the full amount that he had demanded from God.

(c) The word is ‘denied’.

(d) The word is ‘confidence’.



Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Lencho? What were his main problems?

Ans. Lencho was a hardworking farmer, who lived on the crest of a low hill. Due to the hailstorm his crops were destroyed, so he needed money to sow his field again and support his family. These were the main problems of Lencho.

2. What did Lencho compare the raindrops to and why?

Ans. Lencho compared the raindrops to new coins because the crop needed the rain badly and it was the sign of good harvest. Good harvest meant prosperity for Lencho as he needed the money to fulfil his basic needs.

3. Why did Lencho write a letter to God?

Ans. When Lencho's crops were completely destroyed by the hailstorm, he wrote a letter to God because he was the only hope in his despair. Lencho asked him to send hundred pesos to sow his field again and support his family.

4. Why and how did the postmaster help Lencho?

Ans. The postmaster was determined to help Lencho. He did not want Lencho's faith in God to be shaken so he asked his employees and friends to help Lencho. He also contributed a part of his salary for this act of charity.

5. How much money did Lencho need? How much did he get?

Ans. Lencho got seventy pesos. He was angry at the difference as he needed hundred pesos to sow the crops again and to support his family till the next harvest.



