

A Letter to God

– G.L. Fuentes

Summary

'A Letter to God' is a story about faith. It tells us about a simple poor farmer Lencho, who has tremendous faith in God. After a hailstorm ruins his corn crop, he writes a letter asking for a hundred pesos to tide him and his family over until the next crop was ready. He addresses the letter to God and gives it at the post office. At the post office after laughing at Lencho's naivety, the post master decides to help him. He gathers money from everyone he knows and even gives a part of his salary to collect seventy pesos. He places them in an envelope and addresses it to Lencho. The following week, Lencho comes to the post office and receives his letter. However, contrary to the postmaster's expectations, he becomes angry instead of being happy. Lencho immediately writes back to God complaining that though he must have sent the full hundred pesos, the post office officials have stolen thirty pesos and left only seventy pesos for him.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Where was Lencho's house situated?

- (a) Bottom of the hill
- (b) Top of a hill
- (c) Top of a plateau
- (d) In a city

Ans. (b) Top of a hill

2. From the top of the hill, Lencho could see his field and _____.

- (a) trees
- (b) meadow
- (c) waterfall
- (d) river

Ans. (d) river

3. Which crop was growing on Lencho's fields?

- (a) Corn
- (b) Barley
- (c) Rice
- (d) None of these

Ans. (a) Corn

4. What was the only thing that the Earth needed according to Lencho?

- (a) A shower
- (b) A snowfall
- (c) Strong winds
- (d) Sunlight

Ans. (a) A shower

5. Where did Lencho expect the downpour to come from?

- (a) North
- (b) North-east
- (c) South-west

(d) South-east

Ans. (b) North-east

6. Why did Lencho go out in the rain?

(a) To have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.

(b) To harvest the crops.

(c) To feed the fish.

(d) None of the above

Ans. (a) To have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.

7. What did Lencho compare the large raindrops with?

(a) Silver coins

(b) Pearls

(c) Diamonds

(d) New coins

Ans. (d) New coins

8. Why was Lencho satisfied?

(a) On seeing a new tractor in his field.

(b) On seeing a new buffalo.

(c) On seeing the field of ripe corn with flowers.

(d) None of the above

Ans. (c) On seeing the field of ripe corn with flowers.

9. What destroyed Lencho's fields?

(a) Heavy rainfall

(b) Hailstorm

(c) Landslide

(d) Flood

Ans. (b) Hailstorm

10. The field looked as if it were covered in:

- (a) salt
- (b) locusts
- (c) sugar
- (d) ice

Ans. (a) salt

11. Lencho compared the quantum of damage with:

- (a) attack by rats
- (b) attack by crows
- (c) plague of locusts
- (d) None of these

Ans. (c) plague of locusts

12. What does the word 'ox' in the chapter 'A Letter to God' mean?

- (a) Hardworking and simple person
- (b) A domestic animal
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a) Hardworking and simple person

13. What was the only hope left in the hearts of Lencho's family?

- (a) Compensation from the government.
- (b) Help from farmer's association.
- (c) Help from God.
- (d) There was no hope left.

Ans. (c) Help from God.

14. Why did Lencho need money?

- (a) To buy a tractor.
- (b) To save his family from hunger.
- (c) To buy a new phone.
- (d) To buy a buffalo.

Ans. (b) To save his family from hunger.

15. How did Lencho decide to contact his last resort?

- (a) By visiting them personally.
- (b) Through a letter.
- (c) Through e-mail.
- (d) Through fax.

Ans. (b) Through a letter.

16. How much money did Lencho ask for?

- (a) 100 pesos
- (b) 1000 pesos
- (c) 10 pesos
- (d) 500 pesos

Ans. (a) 100 pesos

17. What was the immediate reaction of the postman on seeing the letter?

- (a) He laughed wholeheartedly.
- (b) He cried.
- (c) He felt sad about what happened.
- (d) He felt empathetic.

Ans. (a) He laughed wholeheartedly.

18. The postmaster was a fat, amiable man. What is the meaning of amiable?

- (a) rude
- (b) helpful
- (c) friendly
- (d) enthusiastic

Ans. (c) friendly

19. Why did the postmaster decide to reply to Lencho's letter?

- (a) He was a good man.
- (b) He felt empathetic.
- (c) To preserve Lencho's faith in God.
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (c) To preserve Lencho's faith in God.

20. How much money was the postmaster able to arrange?

- (a) 100 pesos
- (b) Nil
- (c) 1000 pesos
- (d) 70 pesos

Ans. (d) 70 pesos

21. Why was Lencho not surprised on seeing the money in the envelope?

- (a) He was too sad to acknowledge it.
- (b) He had unwavering faith in God.
- (c) He was an ungrateful man.

(d) None of the above

Ans. (b) He had unwavering faith in God.

22. How did Lencho feel when he counted the money?

(a) grateful

(b) joyful

(c) relieved

(d) angry

Ans. (d) angry

23. What did Lencho think of the post-office employees?

(a) bunch of crooks

(b) rude

(c) unhelpful

(d) proud

Ans. (a) bunch of crooks

24. What did Lencho ask for in his second letter?

(a) more money

(b) remaining amount and not send it by mail

(c) remaining amount and send it by mail only

(d) he didn't ask for anything

Ans. (c) remaining amount and send it by mail only

25. What type of conflict does the chapter 'A Letter to God' highlight?

(a) conflict between nature

(b) conflict among humans

(c) conflict among God and nature

(d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (a) Both (a) and (b)

26. Who is the author of the lesson 'A Letter to God'?

(a) G.L. Fuentes

(b) J.k. Rowling

(c) William Shakespeare

(d) Roald Dahl

Ans. (a) G.L. Fuentes

27. What does the story tell about the character of Lencho?

(a) He was a simple person.

(b) He was very hard working.

(c) He had faith in God.

(d) All of the above

Ans. (d) All of the above

28. For _____ the hail rained.

(a) five days

(b) one day

(c) an hour

(d) 4 hours

Ans. (c) an hour

Rearrange the sentences in the correct sequence and choose the correct option:

29. (i) "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."

(ii) God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied

Lencho what he had requested.

(iii) From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest.

(iv) "We'll all go hungry this year."

Options:

(a) (ii)-(iv)-(i)-(iii)

(b) (iv)-(iii)-(ii)-(i)

(c) (i)-(ii)-(iv)-(iii)

(d) (iii)-(i)-(iv)-(ii)

Ans. (d) (iii)-(i)-(iv)-(ii)

30. (i) Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write.

(ii) He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with it a letter containing only a single word as a signature: God.

(iii) He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town.

(iv) But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall.

Options :

(a) (iv)-(i)-(iii)-(ii)

(b) (i)-(iii)-(ii)-(iv)

(c) (ii)-(i)-(iv)-(iii)

(d) (iv)-(iii)-(i)-(ii)

Ans. (a) (iv)-(i)-(iii)-(ii)

31. **Assertion :** Lencho wrote a second letter to God.

Reason : He received only 60 pesos.

(i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct

explanation of assertion.

(ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

(iii) Assertion is true and reason is false. (iv) Assertion is false and reason is true.

Ans. (iii) Assertion is true and reason is false.

32. Assertion : Lencho thought that no one dies from hunger.

Reason : God was the only hope.

(i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

(ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

(iii) Assertion is true and reason is false. (iv) Assertion is false and reason is true.

Ans. (ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

33. Assertion : Lencho only received 70 pesos.

Reason : The postmaster kept some of the money.

(i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

(ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

(iii) Assertion is true and reason is false. (iv) Assertion is false and reason is true.

Ans. (iii) Assertion is true and reason is false.

34. Assertion : Lencho was afraid to think how his family would survive.

Reason : His crops were destroyed.

(i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

(ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

(iii) Assertion is true and reason is false. (iv) Assertion is false and reason is true.

Ans. (i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

35. Assertion : The post office employees were moved by Lencho's letter.

Reason : He wrote a letter to God asking money.

(i) Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.

(ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

(iii) Assertion is true and reason is false. (iv) Assertion is false and reason is true.

Ans. (ii) Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.

 Extract Based Questions

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

36. 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 good 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. **[NCERT]**

(i) **Based on the detail of the house's location, how can it best be described?**

- (a) majestic
- (b) imposing
- (c) solitary
- (d) unique

(ii) **The field of corn dotted with flowers means that:**

- (a) not a single flower was bigger than a dot.
- (b) the flowers were scattered across.
- (c) the flowers were shaped like dots.
- (d) the flowers had shrunk in size.

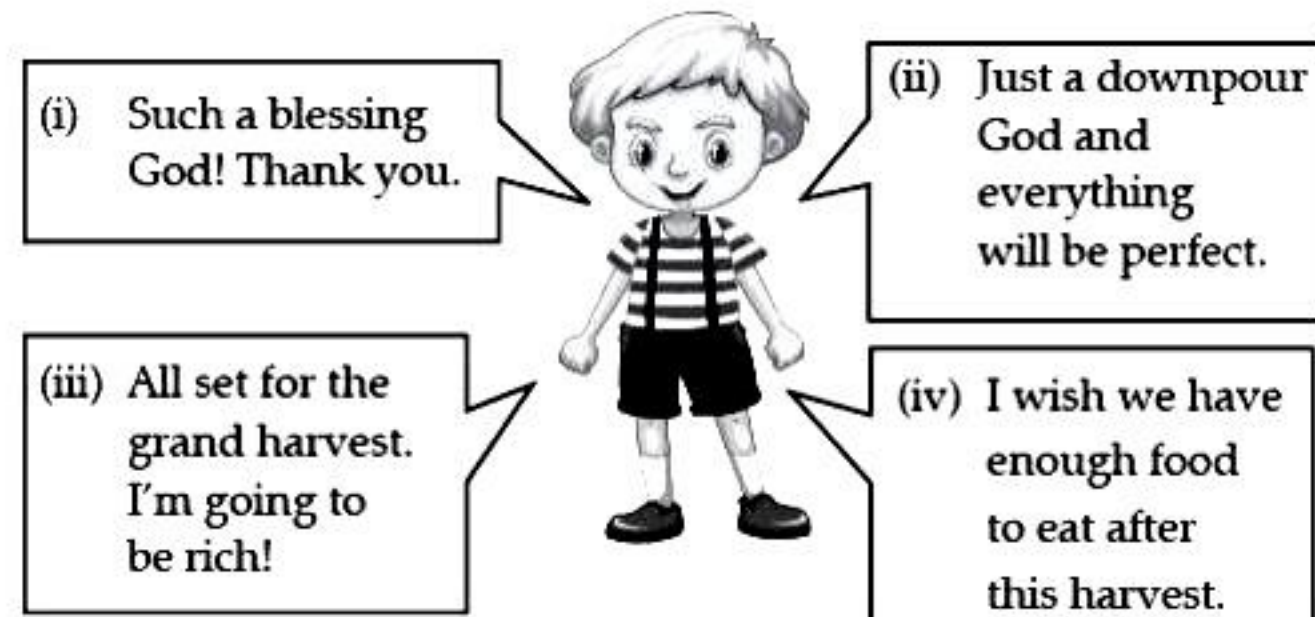
(iii) **Lencho wished for a downpour or a heavy shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for kinds of rain.**

1. Heavy rain	(i) Light rain that falls in very fine drops.
2. Thunderstorm	(ii) Very heavy rain, tropical rain.
3. Drizzle	(iii) It comes down quite strongly and a person gets wet very quickly.
4. Torrential rain	(iv) Really heavy drenching rain that comes very suddenly.
5. Downpour	(v) Is a violent, short-lived weather disturbance associated with lightening thunder and strong, gusty winds.

- (a) 1-(ii), 2-(iv), 3-(v), 4-(i), 5-(iii)
- (b) 1-(iv), 2-(i), 3-(iii), 4-(v), 5-(i)
- (c) 1-(v), 2-(iii), 3-(iv), 4-(ii), 5-(i)

(d) 1-(iii), 2-(v), 3-(i), 4-(ii), 5-(iv)

(iv) Based on the given extract, what is Lencho NOT likely to think while looking at his field?



(a) Option (i)

(b) Option (i)

(c) Option (i)

(d) Option (i)

(v) Which quote supports the idea in the given extract?

(a) "Farming is a profession of hope."

(b) "I would rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world."

(c) "Farming looks mighty easy when your plough is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

(d) "Those too lazy to plough in the right season will have no food at the harvest."

Ans. (i) (c) solitary

(ii) (b) the flowers were scattered across.

(iii) (d) 1-(iii), 2-(v), 3-(i), 4-(ii), 5-(iv)

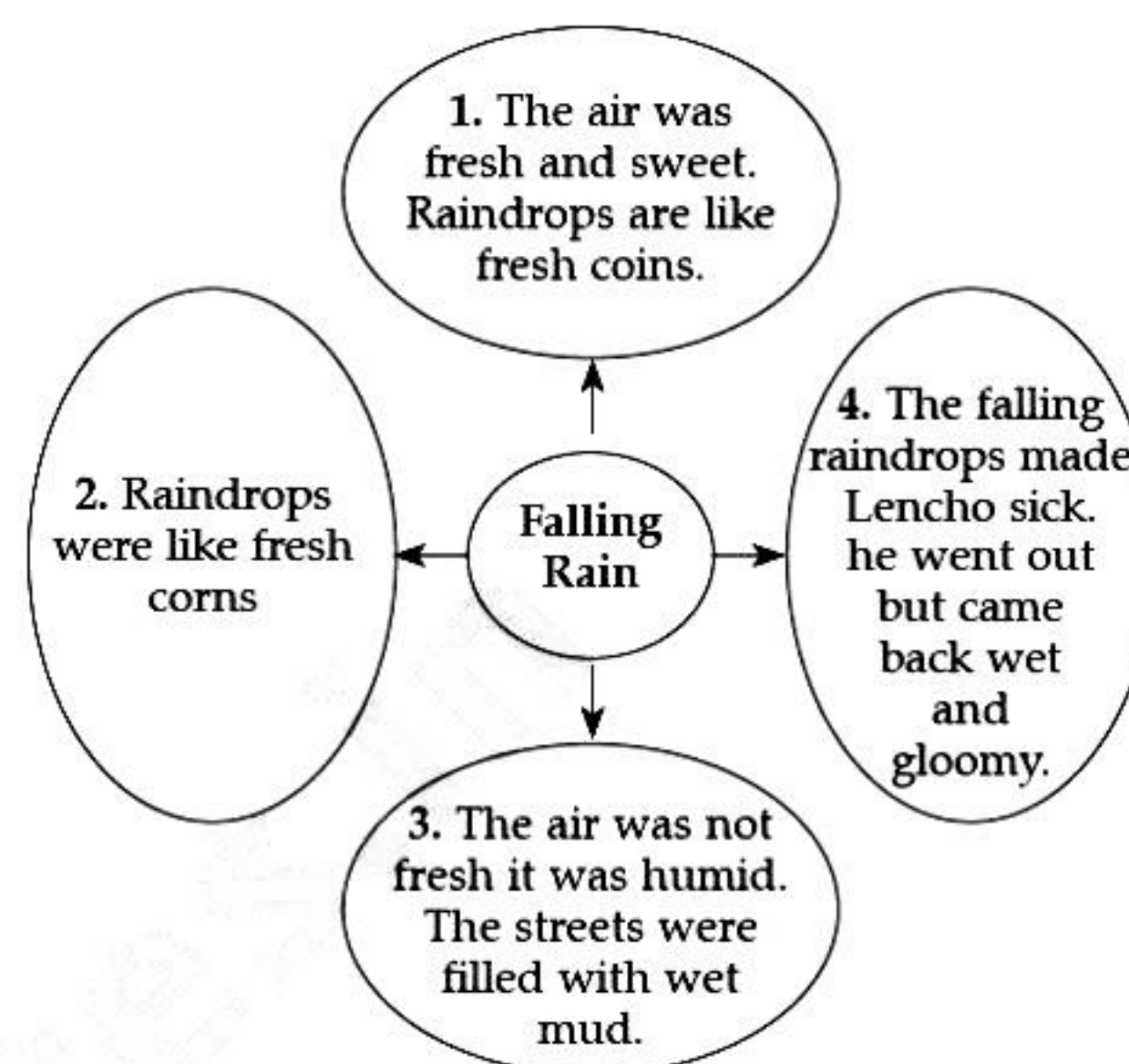
(iv) (d) Option (i)

(v) (a) "Farming is a profession of hope."

37. 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."

(i) Choose the answer that lists the correct descriptions about the falling rain.



(a) Option 1

(b) Option 2

(c) Option 3

(d) Option 4

(ii) Why did the man go out in rain?

(a) For sheer pleasure.

(b) To get his clothes.

(c) To examine the rain.

(d) To examine the roads.

(iii) The big raindrops were the size of _____.

(a) five cent pieces

(b) twenty cent pieces

(c) ten cent pieces

(d) fifteen cent pieces

(iv) What was falling from the sky?

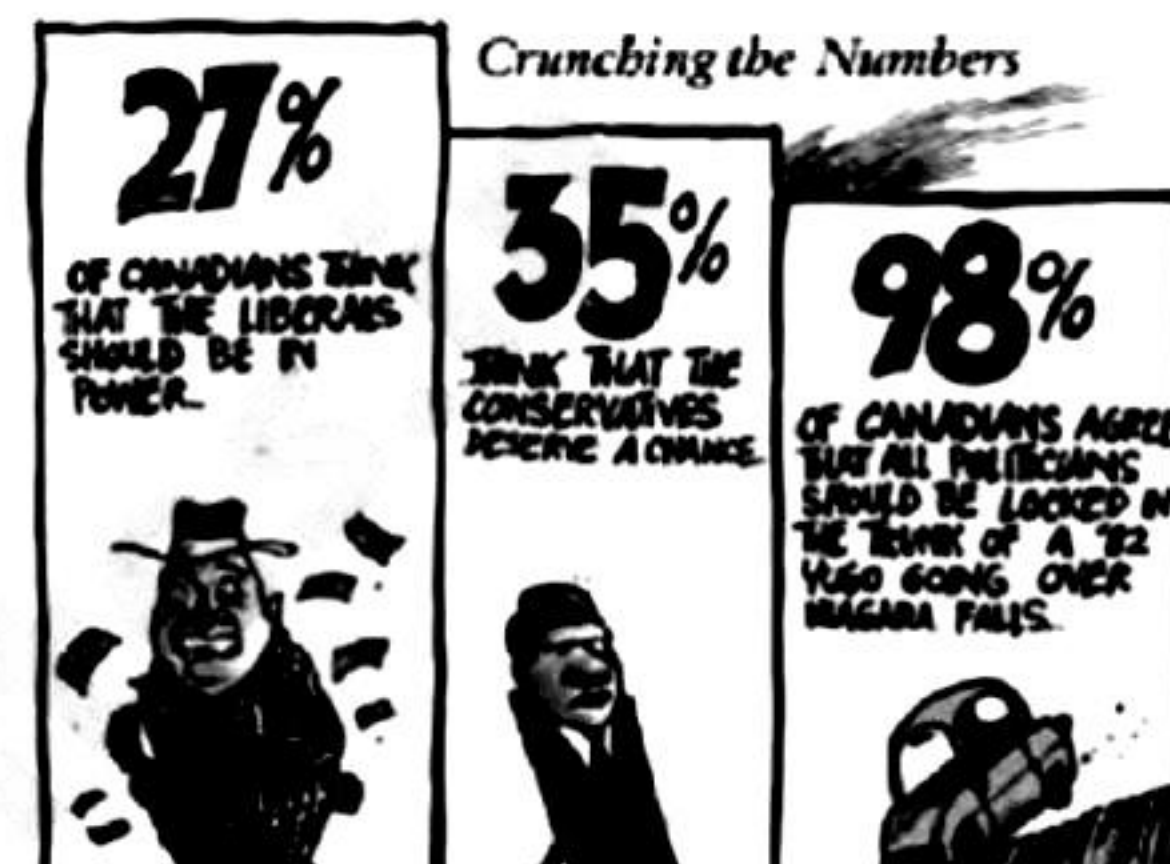
(a) Raindrops

(b) Stones

(c) Mud

(d) Money

(v) The extract uses the phrase, 'proceed towards' for rain. Identify the synonym of the phrase from the given words.



(a) Option 1

(b) Option 2

(c) Option 3

(d) Option 4

Ans. (i) (a) Option 1

(ii) (a) For sheer pleasure.

(iii) (c) ten-cent pieces

(iv) (a) Raindrops

(v) (c) Option 3

38. *With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in 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.*

(i) What happened to the rain suddenly?

- (a) It stopped.
- (b) It turned into acid rain.
- (c) It changed into hailstones.
- (d) It started raining more heavily.

(ii) With what did hailstones resemble in the extract?

- (a) Silver coins
- (b) Ice creams
- (c) Flowers
- (d) Snow peaks

(iii) Find a word in the given extract which means the same as 'contented'.

- (a) Regarded
- (b) Draped
- (c) Exposed
- (d) Satisfied

(iv) What does the word 'exposing' mean in the extract?

- (a) Hiding
- (b) Coming out in open
- (c) Preventing
- (d) Influencing

(v) Who is 'he' and why was he satisfied?

- (a) 'He' is Lencho. The rains had a good effect on his crops.
- (b) 'He' is the postman. He felt satisfied that Lencho will have a good

harvest.

(c) 'He' is Lencho. His predictions for rains which ought to have good effect on his crops came true.

(d) 'He' is the Postmaster. He was much satisfied with the response he received from his subordinates.

Ans. (i) (c) It changed into hailstones.

(ii) (a) Silver coins

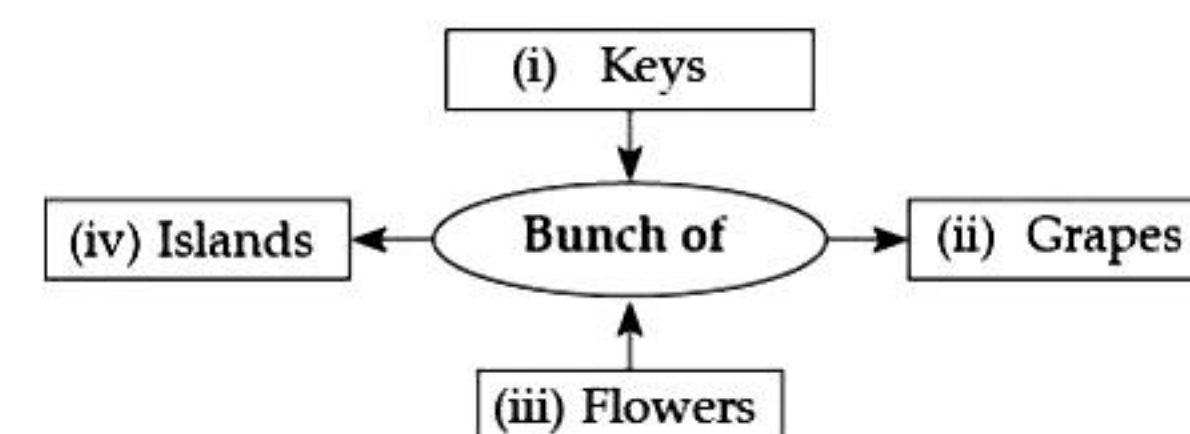
(iii) (d) Satisfied

(iv) (b) Coming out in open

(v) (c) 'He' is Lencho. His predictions for rains which ought to have good effect on his crops came true.

39. *When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: "God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho."* **[NCERT]**

(i) '... bunch of crooks.' Pick the option that DOES NOT collate with 'bunch of', correctly.



(a) Option (i)

(b) Option (ii)

(c) Option (iii)

(d) Option (iv)

(ii) What was the most likely response that the postmaster expected in Lencho's second letter?

- (i) Sorrowful
- (ii) Gratitude
- (iii) Disappointment
- (iv) Shock
- (a) (ii) and (v)
- (b) (i) and (iii)
- (c) (ii) and (iv)
- (d) (iii) and (v)

(iii) Pick the correct option corresponding to the phrase—'with a blow of his fist'.



- (i) (ii)



- (iii) (iv)
- (a) Option (i)
- (b) Option (ii)
- (c) Option (iii)
- (d) Option (iv)

(iv) Lencho's letter included:

- (a) details of his problems.
- (b) description of the post office.

(c) belief of being looted.

(d) list of further demands.

(v) Pick the most suitable quote for the above extract.

(a) “It is easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.”

—Mark Twain

(b) “Real knowledge is to know the extent of one’s ignorance.”—Confucius

(c) “You see a person’s true colours when you are no longer beneficial to their life.”

—Anonymous

(d) “True generosity means accepting ingratitude.” —Coco Chanel

Ans. (i) (d) Option (iv)

(ii) (c) (ii) and (iv)

(iii) (d) Option (iv)

(iv) (d) List of further demands.

(v) (d) “True generosity means accepting ingratitude.” —**Coco Chanel**

40. *When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: “God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho.”*

(i) What did the man finish?

(a) He finished the formalities of posting a letter.

(b) He finished writing the letter.

(c) He finished arranging the papers for handing out to customers.

(d) Both (b) and (c)

(ii) Why was the postmaster interested in the letter?

(a) The postmaster had a nasty habit of reading letters that fell into the box.

(b) The postmaster was especially interested in everything that Lencho would do.

(c) The postmaster had seen that the letter was addressed to God.

(d) The postmaster was eager to know his reaction and what he could he write to God after receiving the money.

(iii) Why did Lencho form a low opinion of the post office employees?

(a) They had stolen his money.

(b) Lencho received 40 pesos less from the post office.

(c) Lencho's appeal to God was heard, but part of the money received was lost.

(d) The envelop Lencho received was delivered from the post office.

(iv) What is ironical about Lencho's impression towards the post office employees?

(a) Lencho called the post office employees 'a bunch of crooks', but he was unaware that they were the ones who collected the money for him.

(b) Lencho did not know that God disliked those who had a low opinion towards other fellow beings.

(c) Lencho had no idea that post office was visited not just by its employees but many other people

(d) Lencho did not know that the envelop containing money that reached him belonged to someone else.

(v) Which of the following reactions must have been of the Post master's when he read Lencho's letter?

(a) Angry

(b) Regretted his philanthropic actions

(c) Smiled at Lencho's innocence

(d) No reaction

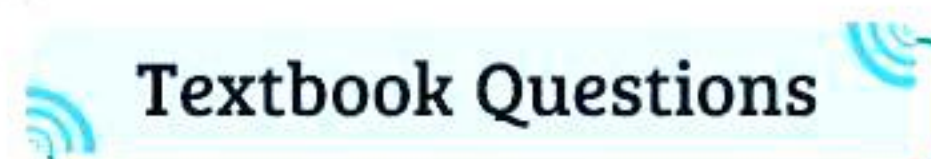
Ans. (i) (b) He finished writing the letter.

(ii) (d) The postmaster was eager to know his reaction and what could he write to God after receiving the money.

(iii) (c) Lencho's appeal to God was heard, but part of the money received was lost.

(iv) (a) Lencho called the post office employees 'a bunch of crooks', but he was unaware that they were the ones who collected the money for him.

(v) (c) Smiled at Lencho's innocence



Activity :

41. Now complete the following statements.

(i) In addition to the sender, the form has to be signed by the Postmaster.

(ii) The 'Acknowledgment' section of the form is sent back by the post office to the sender after the payee or the receiver signs it.

(iii) The 'Space for Communication' section is used for writing any message to the payee.

(iv) The form has six sections. The sender needs to fill out four

sections and the receiver two.

Oral Comprehension Check :

42. What did Lencho hope for?

Ans. Lencho hoped for some rain for his crops.

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

Ans. Lencho called the raindrops 'new coins' because indirectly they meant money for him. With the approaching rain, the crop would turn out to be good and he would earn some money.

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

Ans. The rain changed from small drops of water to huge hails. The hailstorm ruined his corn crop. The fields looked white and all the flowers on the corn plants were gone.

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

Ans. When the hail stopped and Lencho saw the damage done to his crops, his soul was filled with sadness. He knew they would not have any money or food for the year.

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

Ans. Lencho had firm faith in God. He wrote a letter to God asking him for a hundred pesos to sow his field again and to feed his family until the next crop was ready.

47. Who read the letter?

Ans. The postman and his boss read the letter.

48. What did the postmaster do then?

Ans. The postmaster first laughed at Lencho's naivety and then decided to help him by collecting money and giving it to Lencho on God's behalf.

49. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

Ans. No, Lencho was not surprised to find the letter with the money in it.

50. What made him angry?

Ans. Lencho was angry because he believed that God had sent him the full hundred pesos but employees in the post office had stolen thirty out of it and left only seventy for him.



51. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

Ans. Lencho has complete faith in God. These lines from the story tell us the same: 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.

52. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

Ans. The postmaster appreciates Lencho's faith in God. He then arranges for some money to send to Lencho. He signs it 'God', so that Lencho's faith is maintained.

53. 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 because he truly believed God had sent him the money in response to his plea for help.

54. Who does Lencho think had 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 thinks that the rest of the money has been taken by some official in the post office. The irony of the situation is that the post office officials whom Lencho is calling a "bunch of crooks" are

the same people who have provided him financial help on behalf of God.

55. Are there people like Lencho in the real world? What kind of a person would you say he is? You may select appropriate words from the box to answer the question.

(greedy, naive, stupid, ungrateful, selfish, comical, unquestioning)

Ans. No, I don't think there are people like Lencho in the real world. Lencho is a naive person who has an unfaltering belief in God.

56. There are two kinds of conflicts in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

Ans. The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated in the destruction of Lencho's corn fields by a hailstorm. Conflict between humans is illustrated by the anger Lencho feels towards the post office officials for taking some money out from the money sent to him by God.

Thinking About Language

57. Match the names in the box with their descriptions below and fill in the blanks. You may use a dictionary to help you.

[gale, whirlwind, cyclone, hurricane, tornado, typhoon]

(i) A violent tropical storm in which strong winds move in a circle: c

(ii) An extremely strong wind : a

(iii) A violent tropical storm with very strong winds : p

(iv) A violent storm whose centre is a cloud in the shape of a funnel: n

(v) A violent storm within the water, especially in the western Atlantic Ocean: r

(vi) A very strong wind that moves very fast in a spinning movement

and causes a lot of damage: _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ _

Ans (i) Cyclone, (ii) Gale, (iii) Typhoon, (iv) Tornado, (v) Hurricane, (vi) Whirlwind

58. Match the sentences in Column A with the meanings of 'hope' in Column B.

A	B
1. Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? I <i>hope</i> so.	(a) a feeling that something good will probably happen
2. I <i>hope</i> you don't mind me saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.	(b) thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened.)
3. This discovery will give new <i>hope</i> to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	(c) stopped believing that good thing would happen
4. We were <i>hoping against hope</i> that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	(d) wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
5. I called early <i>in the hope</i> of speaking to her before she went to school.	(e) showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person : a way of being polite
6. Just when everybody had <i>given up hope</i> , the fishermen came back, seven days after the cyclone.	(f) wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely

Ans. 1-(d), 2-(e), 3-(a), 4-(f), 5-(b), 6-(c).

Relative Clauses

Join the sentences given below using who, whom, whose and

which, as suggested.

(i) I often go to Mumbai. Mumbai is the commercial capital of India. (which)

Ans. I often go to Mumbai which is the commercial capital of India.

(ii) My mother is going to host a TV show on cooking. She cooks very well. (who)

Ans. My mother, who cooks very well, is going to host a TV show on cooking.

(iii) These sportspersons are going to meet the President. Their performance has been excellent. (whose)

Ans. These sportspersons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.

(iv) Lencho prayed to God. His eyes see into our minds. (whose)

Ans. Lencho prayed to God whose eyes see into our minds.

(v) This man cheated me. I trusted him. (whom)

Ans. This man, whom I trusted, cheated me.

59. Using Negatives for Emphasis

Find sentences in the story with negative words, which express the following ideas emphatically.

(i) The trees lost all their leaves.

Ans. Not a leaf remained on the trees.

(ii) The letter was addressed to God himself.

Ans. It was nothing less than a letter to God.

(iii) The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Ans. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

60. Metaphors

In pairs, find metaphors from the story to complete the table below. Try to say what qualities are being compared.

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
Raindrops	New coins	The result of rain would be more money
Hailstones	Frozen pearls	Pearls made of ice
Locusts	Plague	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
Lencho	An ox of a man	Someone who works as hard as an ox and has the strength of an ox

Additional Questions

Short Answer Type Questions: [20-30 words]

61. Why had Lencho been looking at the sky towards the north-east?

Ans. Lencho's fields were ready and all that was needed was rain. In anticipation of rain, Lencho had been looking towards the north-east from where the rain clouds would approach.

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

Ans. After the hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. He could see a bleak future for him and his family. He was worried about the lack of food for the coming year.

63. What did Lencho write in his letter to God?

Ans. Lencho wrote that because of the hailstorm, his crops had been destroyed and he needed a hundred pesos to live until the next crop was harvested. He wrote that if God did not help him, he and his family would die out of hunger.

64. How did the postmaster collect the money? Was he able to collect the full amount?

Ans. The postmaster asked for money from his employees, he himself gave a part of his salary and several friends of his were obliged to give something 'for an act of charity'. But still, he was not able to collect the full amount of a hundred pesos.

Short Answer Type Questions: [40-50 words]

65. "So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter." Why did the postmaster help Lencho and how?

Ans. Lencho was a poor but dedicated farmer who had lost the entire year's harvest to a hailstorm. He wrote a letter to God seeking the aid of a hundred pesos. When the postmaster got the letter he was moved by the great faith of the farmer in God. So the postmaster decided to respect Lencho's faith and help him. But to his dismay, the postmaster was able to assemble only seventy pesos from his salary and from his colleagues and friends who willingly contributed for an act of charity. Then he wrapped it in an envelope to make it seem like a reply from God.

66. "But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks." Why did Lencho call the post-office employees "a bunch of crooks"?

Ans. On receiving the reply to his letter, Lencho was not at all shocked but rather got angry on finding that the amount was less than what he had expected. So he again wrote a letter to God calling the post office employees "a bunch of crooks" as he doubted the employees had stolen the remaining amount.

Long Answer Type Questions: [100-120 words]

67. Based on the story, illustrate Lencho's faith and attitude towards God and man.

Ans. Lencho has great faith in God. When his crop is destroyed and he faces a complete ruin and starvation, he writes a letter to God asking for his help. When a reply comes back, he is not surprised as he believes that God himself has responded to his plea for help. On the other hand, when he gets only a part of the money he had asked God to give him, he instantly believes that the post office employees have stolen some of it. He has no faith in the men at the post office. Lencho has never seen God and still he has a great faith in him but he has the least amount of trust in the humans who lived around him. This shows his narrow belief and twisted manner of thinking.

68. What kind of people were the post office employees? Was Lencho's calling them a 'bunch of crooks' justified?

Ans. The post office employees were good and decent people. The postmaster, on seeing Lencho's faith in God, decided to help him. He did so in order to not to shake Lencho's faith in God. He collected money from everyone and gave a part of his salary to help Lencho on behalf of God. Lencho's calling the post office employees 'a bunch of crooks' was certainly not justified because it was due to them that he got the help he needed. He had to have more faith in humans around him. It was obvious that some human had sent it to him. He should have been grateful to the people at the post office instead of accusing them of theft.



Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

69. *The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. "God : Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho."*

(i) When is Lencho thinking about the money?

- (a) While writing the second letter.
- (b) While writing about crop failure.
- (c) While writing his first letter.
- (d) While stamping the letter.

(ii) Choose the options that lists the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.

1. Lencho realised the sacrifices made on his behalf.
2. Lencho trusted in God to send him 100 pesos.
3. Lencho wrote letters to God for help.
4. He was confident about getting a sure answer.
5. Lencho does not sound greedy when he collects the 70 pesos.
6. Lencho liked the post office employees.
7. Lencho was not happy with the money he got.

- (a) 1, 2, 4
- (b) 1, 2, 3
- (c) 1, 5, 6
- (d) 3, 5, 7

(iii) Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s (F) and opinion/s (O) of the students below.



- (a) F – 1, 2 and O – 3, 4
- (b) F – 1, 3, 4 and O – 2
- (c) F – 1, 3 and O – 2, 4
- (d) F – 3 and O – 1, 2, 4

(iv) Why does he address the post office employees as crooks?

- (a) Because he received less money.
- (b) Because he was cheated of money.
- (c) Because they had charged money.
- (d) Because they owed him money.

(v) Why is Lencho asking money from God?

- (a) He is poor.
- (b) He lost his money.
- (c) He was duped of his money.
- (d) His crops were ruined.

Ans. (i) (a) While writing the second letter.

(ii) (c) 1, 5, 6

(iii) (c) F – 1, 3 and O – 2, 4

(iv) (a) Because he received less money.

(v) (d) His crops were ruined.

70. *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.*

(i) Where was Lencho's house situated ? Why did he sit seeing the sky ?

(ii) How did Lencho's hope change to despair ?

Ans. (i) Lencho's house was situated on the crest of a low hill in the valley. The whole day he sat seeing the sky because he knew that his fields needed downpour or at least a shower and he was waiting to see the signs of rain.

(ii) Lencho was waiting for a shower of rain that his field needed. But his hope for good rain vanished when the wind changed into hailstorm. It destroyed everything. So, Lencho's hope changed to despair as his family would face starvation.

71. *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.*

(i) What were Lencho's feelings when he found the letter with money in it ? What did he do after opening the letter ?

(ii) What did the postmaster do to keep the faith of Lencho ?

Ans. (i) In the beginning, Lencho was very happy and satisfied to

receive the letter. But when he counted the money and found it less, he became very angry. He wrote another letter to God, demanding thirty more pesos.

(ii) The postmaster collected money from the post office employees, he himself gave part of his salary, and also several friends of his contributed to help Lencho. The postmaster then sent the money order to Lencho in God's name to keep his faith.



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