

A letter to God

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. What were Lencho's feeling when the hail had stopped?

Sol. When the hail stopped, Lencho's feelings were filled with sadness and despair. He realized that the hail had destroyed their corn fields, leaving them with no harvest for the year. Lencho lamented the bleak future ahead for himself and his family, feeling shattered by the loss caused by the hailstorm.

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

Sol. Lencho was a hardworking farmer who lived with his family on the crest of a low hill. His main problem arose when a hailstorm destroyed his crops, leaving him in need of money to sow his fields again and support his family. This loss of his crops due to the hailstorm led to Lencho's desperation and his plea for financial assistance to overcome the adversity faced by his family.

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

Sol. Lencho compared the raindrops to "new coins" because he saw them as a symbol of hope for a good harvest. The rain was essential for his crops, and a successful harvest would bring prosperity by providing him with the money needed to support his family. Therefore, Lencho viewed the raindrops falling like new coins from the sky as a sign of potential financial security and well-being that a bountiful harvest would bring.

4. Why did Lencho write a letter to God?

Sol. Lencho wrote a letter to God because he believed that God could help him in his time of need. After the hailstorm destroyed his crops, leaving him in a desperate situation without the means to support his family, Lencho turned to God as a source of hope and assistance. He expressed his faith and trust in God's ability to provide for him and his family, seeking divine intervention to overcome the challenges he faced due to the loss of his crops.

5. Why did Lencho not want the way to be sent through mail?

Sol. Lencho did not want the money to be sent through mail because he believed that the mail system was not reliable. He feared that if the money was sent through mail, some of it might get lost or stolen. Lencho preferred to receive the money in person, directly from the hands of the postmaster, to ensure that it reached him safely and completely. This lack of trust in the mail system led Lencho to request for the money to be handed over to him in person, rather than being sent through the mail.

6. What are the raindrops compared to and why?

Sol. Lencho compared the raindrops to "new silver coins" because he saw them as a symbol of prosperity and a good harvest. He likened the big raindrops to ten-cent pieces and the smaller ones to five-cent pieces, envisioning them as round, shining, and precious, much like actual coins. This comparison was rooted in Lencho's anticipation that the raindrops would bring him the financial security and well-being that a bountiful corn harvest would provide. The raindrops symbolized hope for a successful harvest, which would bring him the money needed to support his family, hence the comparison to new coins.

7. Describe Lencho's qualities in the light of his faith in God. Do you have faith in God like Lencho? Was Lencho's reaction towards post office employees right?

Sol. Lencho's qualities, as depicted in the chapter "A Letter to God," highlight his unwavering faith in God. Despite facing immense challenges, particularly the destruction of his crops by a hailstorm, Lencho's faith remained unshaken. He believed wholeheartedly that God would provide for him and his family, demonstrating a deep trust in divine intervention to overcome his hardships. Lencho's faith in God was a central aspect of his character, guiding his actions and decisions as he sought assistance through prayer and a letter addressed to God.

In contrast to Lencho's profound faith, the portrayal of his reaction towards the post office employees reflects his innocence and misunderstanding. Lencho's belief that the post office employees had taken some of the money sent to him by God showcases his simplicity and lack of awareness regarding the actual source of the financial assistance. His labelling of the post office employees as "crooks" stemmed from his genuine belief that the money had been tampered with, highlighting his trust in God's direct intervention and his limited understanding of human actions.

Lencho's qualities, characterized by his deep faith in God and his innocence in interpreting events, prompt reflection on the values of trust, simplicity, and the power of belief in the face of adversity. While Lencho's reaction towards the post office employees may have been misguided, it underscores his reliance on divine providence and his unwavering faith in God's ability to provide for him in times of need.

8. What do you think was the main reason behind their help (post office's employees) to Lencho? Would you have done the same if you were one of the employees?

Sol. The main reason behind the post office employees' help to Lencho was their compassion and empathy towards his situation. Despite initially laughing at Lencho's letter addressed to God, they were deeply moved by his unwavering faith and decided to assist him by collecting money to send to him. Their act of charity was driven by a desire to support Lencho and ensure that his faith in God remained unshaken. The postmaster, in particular, played a significant role in gathering contributions from his employees and friends, demonstrating kindness and generosity towards Lencho in his time of need.

If I were one of the employees, I would have also been inclined to help Lencho, considering his genuine belief in God and his desperate plea for assistance. The employees' decision to contribute towards helping Lencho reflects a sense of community and solidarity, showing a willingness to support someone facing adversity. Their actions exemplify the importance of empathy and kindness in extending a helping hand to those in need, even if their beliefs or perceptions may differ from our own.

9. As an employee, write about your perspective and reason(s) for contributing to the fund. The fact that you don't want to say 'no' to a cause initiated by your boss, can also be an equally compelling reason!

Sol. As an employee in the post office, my perspective on contributing to the fund for Lencho would be driven by a combination of compassion, empathy, and a sense of duty. Witnessing Lencho's unwavering faith in God and his desperate plea for assistance would evoke a deep sense of empathy within me. His belief in divine intervention and his genuine need for support would resonate with my own values of kindness and helping those in need. Additionally, the fact that the initiative to help Lencho was led by our boss, the postmaster, would also play a significant role in my decision to

contribute. There is a natural inclination to support causes initiated by superiors, not only out of respect for their leadership but also due to a sense of duty and loyalty to the organization. Saying 'no' to a cause championed by our boss could be perceived as going against the team spirit, unity, and the values upheld within the workplace.

Therefore, my decision to contribute to the fund for Lencho would stem from a combination of personal empathy towards his situation, a sense of duty to support initiatives led by our boss, and a shared commitment to helping those in need within our community. This collective effort to assist Lencho reflects the values of compassion, solidarity, and kindness that define a supportive and empathetic workplace environment.

10. Why did Lencho become angry when he counted the money?

Sol. Lencho became angry when he counted the money because he realized that he had only received seventy pesos instead of the hundred pesos he had requested in his letter to God. His deep faith in God led him to believe that God would not make a mistake or deny him what he had asked for. Therefore, when Lencho saw that the amount was less than expected, he became infuriated, assuming that the post office staff had taken the remaining funds. This discrepancy between his expectation of receiving the full amount and the actual sum he received triggered his anger, as it challenged his unwavering belief in God's provision and care.

11. How does Lencho's faith in God contrast with the postman's perspective?

Sol. Lencho's faith in God is unwavering and absolute; he believes God will directly provide the help he needs and writes a letter with complete trust. In contrast, the postman views Lencho's act with amusement and skepticism, approaching the situation practically by collecting money out of kindness rather than faith. While Lencho's faith is spiritual and innocent, the postman's actions are grounded in reality, highlighting the irony that human efforts fulfil Lencho's belief in divine intervention.

12. What role does nature play in the story?

Sol. Nature serves as a backdrop to the story, reflecting Lencho's connection with the land and his reliance on it for sustenance.

13. Discuss the theme of faith and resilience.

Sol. The story underscores the themes of faith and resilience as Lencho's unwavering belief in God remains unshaken despite the challenges he faces.

14. How does the setting of the story contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere?

Sol. The rural setting with its agrarian backdrop sets a tone of simplicity and reliance on nature. It amplifies the impact of the drought on the community and underscores the importance of faith in such a context.

15. Discuss the role of symbolism in the story, particularly the significance of the rain and the destroyed crops.

Sol. Symbolism is prevalent, with rain representing hope and divine intervention while the destroyed crops signify the devastation caused by natural calamities and the challenges faced by farmers.

16. Explore the theme of communication in the story, focusing on the different forms of communication between characters.

Sol. Communication takes various forms, from Lencho's written letter to his unspoken plea through his actions, highlighting the nuances of human expression and connection.

17. Analyze the character of the postman and his interactions with Lencho. How does his perspective on faith evolve throughout the story?

Sol. The postman's scepticism initially contrasts with Lencho's unwavering faith but evolves as he witnesses the community's response, showcasing a journey from doubt to understanding.

18. Consider the role of community and solidarity in the narrative. How do the villagers respond to Lencho's plight?

Sol. The villagers' collective efforts to assist Lencho showcase solidarity and empathy, illustrating the strength of community bonds in times of adversity.

19. Discuss the theme of resilience and hope in the face of adversity. How does Lencho maintain his faith despite the challenges he faces?

Sol. Lencho's resilience is evident as he persists in his belief in God's intervention despite the loss of his crops, reflecting the power of faith to sustain hope in challenging circumstances.

20. Reflect on the moral lessons conveyed in the story. What do readers learn about faith, perseverance, and the human spirit?

Sol. Moral lessons of faith, perseverance, and resilience resonate as readers witness Lencho's unwavering belief and determination in the face of hardship, highlighting the enduring power of the human spirit.

21. Compare and contrast Lencho's belief in God with other characters' beliefs or lack thereof. How do different perspectives shape the story's themes?

Sol. Contrasting beliefs among characters offer insight into the diverse perspectives on faith and its role in navigating life's trials, enriching the story's exploration of themes and character dynamics.

22. Consider the story's relevance in contemporary society. What messages or themes resonate with modern readers, and why?

Sol. The story's themes of faith and community resilience remain pertinent, serving as a reminder of the enduring human capacity for hope and solidarity in the face of adversity.

23. Discuss the significance of the ending of the story. How does it leave an impact on the reader, and what lessons can be drawn from it?

Sol. The story's conclusion leaves readers with a sense of upliftment as Lencho's faith is rewarded, emphasizing the importance of maintaining hope and trust in the face of challenges. It serves as a poignant reminder of the power of belief and the resilience of the human spirit.

