

CLASS NOTES

Class: X

Subject: English

Topic: A Letter to God

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Q1. What did Lencho hope for?

ANS. Lencho hoped for a shower for his crops.

Q2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins'?

ANS. After the rain, everything was going as per Lencho's plan and he had immense confidence that his harvest would yield substantial profits. Thus, he referred to the droplets as "new coins, the larger ones being equivalent to ten pesos and smaller ones, five pesos.

Q3. How did the rain change? What happened to Lencho's fields?

ANS. Soon after the rainfall had begun, the wind became strong leading to a hailstorm. As a result of which, Lencho's field was withered, the plants had shed their leaves and the flowers had fallen.

Q4. What were Lencho's feelings when the hail stopped?

ANS. Lencho was extremely disheartened and his soul was filled with immense sadness. Initially he was numb and was not able to accept the reality. Then he started despairing.

Q5. Who or what did Lencho have faith in? What did he do?

ANS. Lencho had unwavering faith in God. Thus, he decided to write a letter to God conveying his grievances and asking for 100 pesos for survival and rejuvenation of crops.

Q6. Who read the letter?

ANS. A postman who was also an employee of the post office read the letter.

Q7. What did the postmaster do then?

ANS. The postmaster was amazed at Lencho's unshakeable faith in the deity and thus, to retain it, he decided to collect money for him from his friends and colleagues.

Q8. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

ANS. Lencho was not at all surprised on seeing the letter because this is what he was expecting. Instead, he was angry when he found that the amount was less than what he had asked for.

Q9. What made him angry?

ANS. Lencho was displeased when he found that the money was less than what he had asked for.

Q10. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

ANS. Lencho has immense faith in God. These lines are evidence to this fact: *"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."*

Q11. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

ANS. The postmaster did not want to shake the writer's faith in the almighty, and thus, out of virtuous intentions, decided to collect money for "an act of charity". He also signed the letter in the name of God to conceal his identity as he wanted Lencho to think it was actually a reply from God.

Q12. 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 the sender because he was very optimistic about the existence of almighty and that, his letter is actually received and replied to, by God. It was his unshakeable faith that made him not question the identity of the sender.

Q13. 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 it is the postmaster or the employees of the post-office who had stolen his remaining amount, as is evident from his second letter to God where he requests the deity not to send money by mail next time. The irony here is that, it was actually the postmaster and the employees who had collected the money out of their clean intent to keep Lencho's faith intact, but are the ones who ended up getting blamed for stealing the missing amount.

Q 14. 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, it is hard to find people like Lencho in reality. Lencho is naïve and unquestioning because of his lack of judgement about the actual physical existence of God. He did not question receiving an actual reply from the almighty. Also, he is ungrateful in some manner because on seeing 70 pesos, he is not happy but instead, complained about the missing 30 pesos.

Q15. There are two kinds of conflict in the story: between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

ANS. The story "A Letter to God" depicts two types of conflicts; one between man and nature and the other among men themselves. At the beginning of the story, the farmer hopes for a shower for the benefit of his corn field. On actually receiving rain, he becomes overjoyed and starts thinking about all the profit that would come in. Not much later, his joy is turned into sorrow when the wind becomes strong leading to a hailstorm. This depicts the disagreement between man and nature wherein humans want nature to act according to their aspirations.

The second divergence arises when Lencho starts doubting the honesty of the post-office employees who actually helped him with the money anonymously. This is the conflict among men themselves, wherein, we are ready to trust in the idea of God's existence but we are not ready to trust each other.

Sarvodaya:

EBQ:

“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.”

1. Who is the writer of the story from which the extract is taken?

a) R.K.Narayan

b) G..G.Marquez

c) G.L.Fuentes

d) None of these

e) **Ans: c**

2. Whose boys have been mentioned here?

a) Lencho's

b) Rancho's

c) Swaminathan's

d) Postmaster's

Ans: a

3. Why are the raindrops compared to silver coins?

a) Because they actually contained silver

b) Because they would bring money in the form of silver

c) Because they were heavy and large

d) Because they symbolised good luck

Ans: c

4. Which poetic device has been used in the last sentence of the extract: "The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls."

a) Personification

b) Simile

c) Metaphor

d) Anaphora

Ans: b

Short Answer Type:

What was the attitude of the post office employees when they discovered the letter of Lencho?

Ans: The postman discovered the letter and brought it to the postmaster. They all laughed at the incident. Suddenly the postmaster became serious and commended the writer for his faith. However, after the content of the letter was revealed, they all sympathised with the writer of the letter; and they all collected some part of the money demanded by Lencho. So the post office employees

show sympathy and a humanitarian attitude to the writer of the letter ,i.e. Lencho.

Long Answer Type:

Lencho has been compared to an ox. Do you agree? Describe the other traits in his character.

Ans: Lencho is the protagonist of the story ‘A letter to God’. He is a poor farmer. He is hardworking; which is why he has been compared to an ox.. But one year his crop is completely destroyed by hailstones. He is helpless and sad.

Lencho has firm faith in God. He believes that God would help him in misery. He would not let him die in hunger.

Lencho is very simple and innocent. He writes a letter to God and candidly asked for 100 pesos. He does not know that it was impossible. Moreover, he was not surprised to have an envelope with money. He believes that it was from God. He is ignorant of worldly events.

He condemns dishonesty and corruption. That is why in this second letter to God he blatantly condemns the post office employees as bunch of crooks for supposedly stealing his money. On the whole, Lencho is an interesting character.