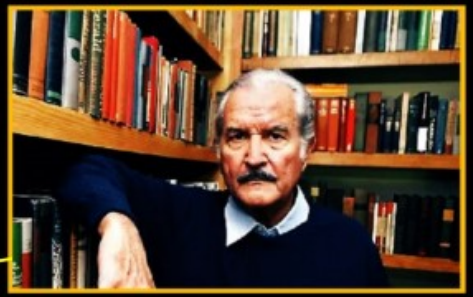
Class-X

English

First Flight

Chapter-1

A Letter to God



G.L. Fuentes

Neha Rajvanshi

contentment : संतोष

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.

slightest: थोडा सा भी
denied : मना किया

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.

express : व्यक्त करना



Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing-table, he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas.

licked : जीभ फेरना
affixed : चिपकाना
fist : मुठ्ठी

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:

rest : शेष

crooks : बेईमान

100
- 70
= 30

"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."

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A Letter to God

[Comprehension]



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Question 1. What did Lencho hope for?

Answer : Lencho hoped for water in the form of rain for his crop.

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

Answer : He said this because his crop really needed rain for being a good harvest. So when it rained, he saw it in the form of 'new coins'. He could have a good money if he had a good harvest.

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

Answer : The rain changed into a hailstorm. Hails fell on the house, the garden, the hillside and the cornfield. They destroyed Lencho's fields completely.

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

Answer : Lencho felt completely broken. The hail had left nothing. He felt that they would have no corn or seed that year. He saw death before him and his family.

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

Answer : Lencho had full and complete faith in God. He felt that God's eyes saw everything. So he wrote a letter to God.

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Question 6. Who read the letter?

Answer : The postman and the postmaster read Lencho's letter to God.

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Question 7. What did the postmaster do then?

Answer : The postmaster helped Lencho by sending money on behalf of God. Lencho had written a letter to God to help him with money. The postmaster didn't want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So he collected money from his friends and employees and sent to Lencho.

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Question 8. Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

Answer : No, Lencho was not surprised to find a letter for him with money. It was because he had full and complete faith in God. He knew that God saw everything even in one's conscience.

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Question 9. What made him angry?

Answer : Lencho had requested God to send him 100 pesos. But he found only 70 pesos in the envelope. He doubted on the post office employees that they might have taken that 30 pesos. That made him angry.

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Question 10. Who does Lencho have complete faith in? Which sentences in the story tell you this?

Answer : Lencho has complete faith in God. The sentences are: "All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes... see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience".

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Question 11. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

Answer : The postmaster doesn't want that Lencho's faith in God should break. He, in fact, feels proud that Lencho has such a great faith in God. So he decided to send money to Lencho on behalf of God.

He signs the letter 'God' to make him believe that the letter and the pesos are sent by the 'God' Himself. If he doesn't do so, Lencho might think differently. His faith in God may shake.

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Question 12. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why\Why not?

Answer : Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him. It was because he had complete faith in God. He, therefore was utterly sure that 'God' himself had sent the letter along with the money he asked for.

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Question 13. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation?

Answer : Lencho thinks that the rest of the money has been taken by the post office officers. The irony in the situation is that the post office officers contribute money for Lencho. Yet he looks at them as 'crooks'.

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Question 14. Write a character sketch of Lencho.

Answer : Lencho was a hardworking farmer who had a strong faith in God. He was very sad when his crops were destroyed by a hailstrom but he remained optimistic that God will help him and his family. His letter to God reflects his unshakeable faith and trust.

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He was innocent enough to believe that the latter was written by God Himself.

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Question 15. There are two kinds of conflicts in the story : between humans and nature, and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated?

Answer : The conflict between human and nature is illustrated in the form of hailstorm destroying Lencho's crop.

He was looking for a good rain for his harvest, but the rain changed into hailstorm and he could not save his fields. The Power of nature tore down his hope of a good harvest.

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The other conflict is illustrated by Lencho. It is in his not believing in the post office officials' honesty. They helped him by sending him money but he thinks them 'crooks' and dishonest persons.