



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI - 110034**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**CLASS - X (2020-21)**

**A Letter to God - by G.L. Fuentes**

**TEXTBOOK : FIRST FLIGHT**

**Topic :Prose lesson 'A Letter to God'**

*Before you go through this e-lesson, ensure that you have read the lesson 'A Letter to God' from your book **First Flight**. Mark the vocabulary words, find out their meanings using the dictionary. In case you do not have the textbook you may follow the link given below or the lesson given at the bottom of this e-lesson.*

**Link for the Textbook:**

[http://ncertbooks.prashanthellina.com/class\\_10.English.FirstFlight/index.html](http://ncertbooks.prashanthellina.com/class_10.English.FirstFlight/index.html)

**Introduction**

**Gregorio Lopez Y Fuentes**

"A Letter to God" is a story written by **Gregorio Lopez Y Fuentes**, a Mexican writer, who was one of the most important chroniclers of the Mexican Revolution and its effects. The story revolves around the idea of having an infinite and unquestionable belief in God. The story is set in a Latin American country. Lencho, the farmer, who is the protagonist of the story, writes a letter to God seeking help from the almighty after discovering that his entire crop yield had been destroyed by a devastating hailstorm.

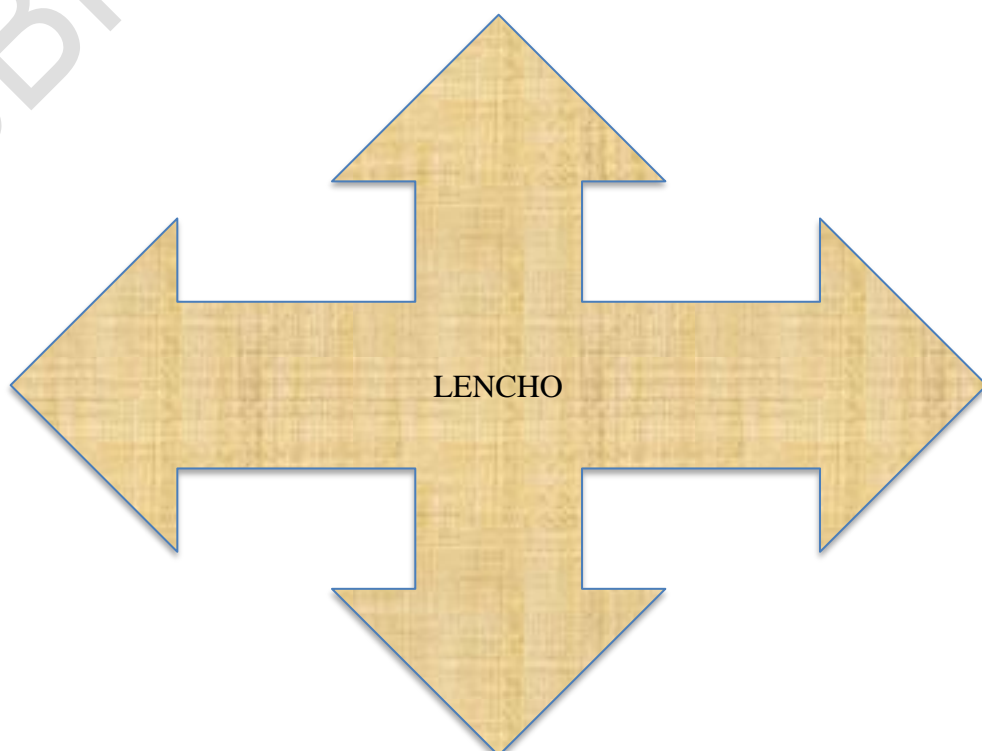
**Characters :** Lencho-a farmer, his wife, his children, postman, postmaster, post office employees.

### Summary

The story, "A Letter to God" by G.L. Fuentes depicts unwavering faith of a farmer in God. It begins with a farmer, named Lencho expecting for a rain shower to nourish his field of corn. He was confident that his harvest was going to yield him huge profits. To his utmost excitement, rainfall did happen but soon, it turned into a hailstorm destroying his entire crop. The damage posed a threat to the family's survival as their entire livelihood was dependent on the year's produce. Although disheartened, the family had robust belief in the almighty. Lencho, despite being a farmer knew how to write and thus, decided to write a letter to God asking for help. He went to town to post his letter addressed "To God". The letter on being noticed by the postmaster, at first amused him, but then motivated him to do something for the farmer so as to keep his immense belief intact. He decided to contribute some money from his salary and collected money from his colleagues and friends who willingly contributed for an act of charity. To his dismay, he could only collect 70 pesos which he wrapped in an envelope to make it seem like a reply from the deity and sent it to Lencho. On having found the letter, Lencho was not at all shocked, but instead, he got angry on finding that the amount was less than what he had expected. He again wrote a letter to God conveying his disappointment and distrust in the employees of the post office who he thought had stolen the remaining amount.

### ACTIVITY :

Enumerate the most prominent qualities of Lencho in the web chart given below and support them with evidence from the text.



## Assignment Questions

**Guidelines : All questions are to be attempted in the English fair notebook. Also, maintain a proper index indicating the topic and date of the assignment.**

### **Short Answer Questions**

Q.1 What prompted Lencho to say that the raindrops were like 'new coins'? Was he right in his anticipation?

Q.2 List out at least three examples of figures of speech used in the story.

Q.3 Cite two examples from the text to show that Lencho had unwavering faith in God.

Q.4 Evaluate the postmaster's act of sending money to Lencho. Why does he sign the letter as 'God'?

Q.5 Imagine yourself in place of Lencho. What would you have done in the same situation? Describe briefly.

### **References for videos:**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=A+letter+to+God&&view=detail&mid=FECC27A3576E451DFC1CFECC27A3576E451DFC1C&&FORM=VDRVRV>

[https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do\\_312796455301447680117634?contentId=do\\_312795699544588288110322](https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do_312796455301447680117634?contentId=do_312795699544588288110322)

### **Reference for quick recapitulation ques./ans. :**

[https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do\\_312796455301447680117634?contentId=do\\_31279853897301196816459](https://www.diksha.gov.in/cbse/play/collection/do_312796455301447680117634?contentId=do_31279853897301196816459)

**Note : Those who do not have the text book can read the lesson from the text given below:**

## **A Letter to God (TEXT LESSON)**

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.

Crest: Top of a hill, Dotted: Full Of

Downpour: Heavy Rain, Intimately: Closely

"Now we're really going to get some water", said the woman. The woman who was preparing supper, replied, "Yes, God willing". The older boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house until the woman called to them all, "Come for dinner. 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, 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."

Exclaimed- cry out suddenly in surprise, strong emotion, or pain.

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 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.

Regarded- Consider Or Think Of In A Specified Way  
Draped- Adorn, Cover, Or Wrap (Someone Or Something)  
Hailstones- A Pellet Of Hail  
Resemble- Have A Similar Appearance To Or Qualities In Common With (Someone Or Something); Look Or Seem Like.  
Exposing- make (something) visible by uncovering it.; reveal

"It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly. It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt.

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. This year we will have no corn.

"That night was a sorrowful one."

"All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us."

"We'll all go hungry this year."

plague- a destructively numerous inflow or multiplication of a harmful animal, infestation

locusts- Insects which fly in big groups and destroy crops

But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God.

"Don't be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger.

"That's what they say: no one dies of hunger. "

solitary: Existing alone; lonely.

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. The following Sunday, at daybreak, he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail. It was nothing less than a letter to God.

conscience- an inner sense of right and wrong.  
ox of a man- hardworking  
daybreak- The time in the morning when daylight first appears

"God, he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm...."

He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office, he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox.

Pesos- the basic monetary unit of Mexico, several other Latin American countries, and the Philippines

One of the employees, who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. 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!"

Amiable- Friendly And Pleasant  
Correspondence- Communication by exchanging letters with someone.

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'.

goodwill- friendly, helpful, or cooperative feelings or attitude  
resolution- a firm decision to do or not to do something, obliged- grateful

It was impossible for him to gather together the hundred pesos, so he was able to send the farmer only a little more than half. He put the money in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with it a letter containing only a single word as a signature: God

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.

contentment- Satisfaction

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. 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."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX