

padhai | Class X

English

Notes



**Full
Explanations**



**Character
Sketch**



**Word
Meanings**



**Tone, Central
idea, devices....**

First Flight

A Letter to God

-G.L.FUENTES

Explanation:

This gives you a revision to the chapter and helps you identify the points that are helpful in writing in exams

The story A Letter to God, from the NCERT textbook First Flight, portray the life of Lencho, a poor farmer whose survival depend entirely on his crops. His house stand alone on the crest of a low hill overlooking the valley and the **cornfields**, showing his isolation and complete dependence on nature.

Lencho is hardworking and determined. The narrator call him "**an ox of a man,**" a metaphor comparing him to an ox to highlight his strength, patience, and tireless work ethic. When rain finally arrive, Lencho joyfully compare the raindrops to "**new coins.**" This metaphor show how valuable rain is to a farmer because it promise a good harvest and financial security.

However, the rain soon turn into a destructive hailstorm. The narrator use imagery and a simile when the fields appear "**white as if covered with salt,**" helping the reader visualize the complete destruction of the crops. Lencho even remark that a **plague of locusts** would have caused less damage, which is hyperbole, an exaggeration used to emphasize the total loss.

Despite the disaster, Lencho's faith in God remain firm. Believing that God help those in need, he write a letter addressed "To God," asking for **one hundred pesos to survive and sow** his fields again.

At the post office, the postman notice the unusual address and show it to the postmaster. The postman represent curiosity and amusement, while the postmaster is compassionate and generous. To preserve Lencho's faith, the postmaster collect money from his colleagues and contribute part of his own salary, managing to gather **seventy pesos for an act of charity.** The money is sent to Lencho in an envelope signed "God."

When Lencho receive the letter, he is not surprised because he firmly believe God has answered him. However, after counting the money and finding only seventy pesos, he become angry and assume the remaining amount has been stolen by the post office employees. He write another letter to God asking for the rest of the money and request that it not to be sent through the mail because the employees are "**a bunch of crooks.**"

This ending create strong **irony**, because the people who generously helped Lencho are the same people he accuse of theft. Through this irony, the author highlight both the beauty and the limitations of **blind faith.**

The title "A Letter to God" symbolize not only Lencho's faith but also the idea that human kindness can act as a form of divine help. The narrator's tone remain sympathetic toward Lencho while subtly revealing the innocence and naivety that accompany his unwavering belief.

Reference Information:

1. Setting of Lencho's house: Lencho's house is the only house in the valley and stand on the crest of a low hill, from where he can see the river and cornfields. This detail highlight the family's isolation and their dependence on agriculture.
2. Condition of the cornfield: The field is described as ripe and dotted with flowers, which indicate that the crop is healthy and close to harvest before the storm destroy it.
3. Direction of rain clouds: Lencho observe clouds coming from the north-east, showing his experience as a farmer who closely study weather patterns.
4. Lencho's family: His wife prepare food while the older sons work in the fields and the younger children play near the house. This detail emphasize that the entire family depend on the harvest for survival.
5. Duration and impact of the hailstorm: Hail fall for about an hour and cover the fields in white, leaving no leaves on the trees and completely destroying the crops.
6. Comparison with locusts: Lencho say even a plague of locusts would have left more crop. This exaggeration emphasize the severity of the damage.
7. Lencho waiting for the mail: After sending the letter, Lencho wait every day for the postman. This detail show his absolute certainty that God will reply.
8. Money requested: Lencho ask God for 100 pesos, the amount he believe is necessary to survive and sow the fields again.
9. Social background of Lencho: Lencho represent poor rural farmers who depend entirely on nature for their livelihood, making them vulnerable to natural disasters.
10. Title significance: The title "A Letter to God" reflect Lencho's deep faith and suggest that human kindness—shown by the postmaster and his colleagues—can act as a form of divine help.

literary devices:

Metaphor: rain compared to coins, Lencho compared to an ox.

Simile: fields white "as if covered with salt."

Imagery: vivid description of the hailstorm and fields.

Hyperbole: locust comparison.

Irony: helpers being accused of stealing.

Detailed Character Sketches

Lencho

Lencho is a poor but hardworking farmer whose life depend entirely on his crops. The narrator describe him as "an ox of a man," a metaphor that highlight his strength, patience, and tireless dedication to work. He possess unshakable faith in God and firmly believe that God help

...those in need. This faith is so strong that he write a letter directly to God asking for financial help. However, Lencho is also simple and somewhat naive. When he receive only seventy pesos instead of the hundred he requested, he assume the post office employees have taken the rest and call them "a bunch of crooks." His character reflect both the power of faith and the innocence of blind belief.

Postmaster

The postmaster is a kind-hearted and compassionate man. Although he initially laugh at Lencho's unusual letter addressed to God, he is soon moved by the farmer's sincere faith. Wanting to preserve this faith, he decide to help Lencho by collecting money from his colleagues and contributing part of his own salary. He send the money in an envelope signed "God." His actions reveal generosity and empathy, showing how human kindness can act as a form of divine help.

Postman

The postman is a minor but important character who first notice Lencho's unusual letter addressed "To God." Curious and amused, he bring it to the postmaster's attention. Although his role is small, his action set the main events of the story in motion.

Central message

Faith give people hope in difficult times, but the story also suggest that human compassion and generosity are often the real forces behind what people consider miracles. It also explains how human help often goes unnoticed.

Narrator's tone

The narrator show sympathy toward Lencho's situation but also subtly reveal the irony and innocence in his blind faith.

Word Meanings

1. Crest — top of a mountain or hill
2. Downpour — a heavy fall of rain
3. Plague — a destructive swarm of insects or something that cause great harm
4. Solitary — alone; isolated
5. Daybreak — dawn; the beginning of the day
6. Peso — a unit of currency used in several Latin American countries
7. Sow — to plant seeds in the soil
8. Heartily — loudly and with full feeling
9. Amiable — friendly and pleasant in nature
10. Deed — a brave or noble act
11. Affixed — attached or fastened to something
12. Crooks — dishonest people; criminals

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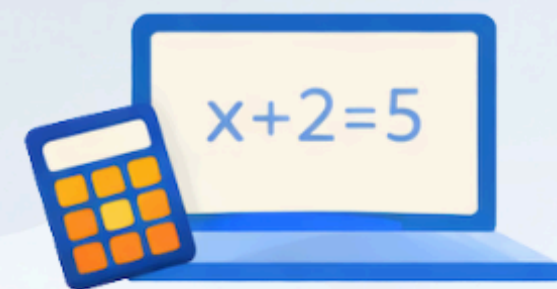
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