
CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature
NCERT Solutions
First Flight 1
A Letter to God

Page No: 5 Oral Comprehension Check

1. What did Lencho hope for?

Ans: Lencho hoped for rains as then only he could get a better yield and thus feed his family.

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

Ans: Lencho's crops were ready for harvest. As raindrops would have helped in getting a better harvest, resulting in more prosperity, so Lencho compared them with new coins.

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

Ans: The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow, followed by a devastating hailstorm. All the crops in Lencho's fields were destroyed.

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

Ans: After the hail stopped, Lencho's heart was filled with sadness. He was completely shattered. He could see a bleak future for him and his family. He was worried about lack of food for the coming year.

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

Ans: Lencho had faith in God. He firmly believed that God can see everything, and even knows what his people have in their hearts. He strongly felt that God will definitely help him out of this situation. He wrote a letter to God saying that he needed some money to sow his fields again.

2. Who read the letter?

Ans: The postmaster read the letter.

3. What did the postmaster do then?

Ans: The postmaster was deeply moved by Lencho's faith in God. He did not want to disillusion this faith. So he decided to collect the money and also asked his colleagues to contribute so that he can send it to Lencho.

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

Ans: No, Lencho was not at all surprised to see the letter from God with money inside it. His confidence and faith in God was such that he had expected that God would definitely send money and help him out of this situation.

2. What made him angry?

Ans: When he finished counting money, he found only seventy pesos in it. But he had demanded hundred pesos. He was confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him what he had requested. So, he was pretty sure that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos.

Thinking about the Text

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

Ans: Lencho has complete faith in God. The following sentences prove his confidence:

- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) "God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."
 - (iv) He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town.
 - (v) God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.
 - (vi) It said: "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the
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rest, since I need it very much.”

2. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter ‘God’?

Ans: Postmaster was moved by Lencho’s strong faith in the God. So he decided to send money to Lencho. Moreover, the postmaster did not want to disillusion him or shake his trust in God. So, he signed the letter ‘God’. It was a good ploy to convey a message that God had himself written the letter.

3. 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 who had sent him the money because he trusted God . His faith in God was so strong that he believed that only God could have sent him the money.

4. 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 had all his doubts on people working in the post office. The irony of the situation is that Lencho blames those who had tried to help him out . In real life also we come across such situations. Many a time you would have tried helping someone and he may get a wrong message. Lencho thinks that the post office people have taken the money. But the fact is that they only tried to help him by sending money . But, on the other hand, Lencho thinks they have stolen his money. He even calls them crooks. Thus ,there is an element of irony in this situation.

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5. 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: I don't think there can be any such people in the real world. Lencho is literate and yet he writes a letter to God and even posts it without writing an address on it. So, he can rightly

be called naive and unquestioning.

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

Ans: The conflict between humans and nature is shown when a hailstorm struck the field and destroyed his farm. As the crops get damaged, Lencho started feeling sad and gloomy and could foresee his dark future. This appropriately projects the conflict between nature and man. The story also shows another conflict, between humans themselves. The postmaster, along with the help of his colleagues, could manage to collect some money and then sent it to Lencho. They were not related to Lencho in any manner. It was an act of kindness and selflessness on their part. Even though they did a good deed, Lencho blamed them for taking away some amount of money. This shows that man does not have faith in his fellow humans, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

Thinking about the Language

1. There are different names in different parts of the world for storms, depending on their nature. Can you match the names in the box with their descriptions below, and fill in the blanks? You may use a dictionary to help you.

gale,	whirlwind,	cyclone,
hurricane,	tornado,	typhoon

- 1. A violent tropical storm in which strong winds move in a circle:
__ c __ __ __ __
- 2. An extremely strong wind: __ a __ __
- 3. A violent tropical storm with very strong winds: __ __ p __ __ __ __
- 4. A violent storm whose center is a cloud in the shape of a funnel:
__ __ __ n __ __ __
- 5. A violent storm with very strong winds, especially in the western Atlantic ocean: __ __ r __
__ __ __ __ __
- 6. A very strong wind that moves very fast in a spinning movement and causes a lot of damage: __ __ __ __ l __ __ __ __

- Ans: 1.** Cyclone
 2. Gale
 3. Typhoon
 4. Tornado
 5. Hurricane
 6. Whirlwind

2. Match the sentences in Column A with the meanings of 'hope' in Column B.

A		B	
1.	Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? <i>I hope so.</i>	–	a feeling that something good will probably happen
2.	<i>I hope</i> you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.	–	thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened).
3.	This discovery will give new <i>hope</i> to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	–	stopped believing that this good thing would happen
4.	We were <i>hoping against hope</i> that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	–	wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
5.	I called early <i>in the hope</i> of speaking to her before she went to school.	–	showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person: a way of being polite
6.	Just when everybody had <i>given up hope</i> , the fishermen came back, seven days after the cyclone.	–	wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely

Answer

A		B	
1.	Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? <i>I hope so.</i>	–	wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)

2.	I <i>hope</i> you don't mind my saying this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.	–	showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person: a way of being polite
3.	This discovery will give new <i>hope</i> to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	–	a feeling that something good will probably happen
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5.	I called early <i>in the hope of</i> speaking to her before she went to school.	–	thinking that this would happen (It may or may not have happened.)
6.	Just when everybody had <i>given up hope</i> , the fisherman came back, seven days after the cyclone.	–	stopped believing that this good thing would happen

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3. Join the sentences given below using *who, whom, whose, which* as suggested.

1. I often go to Mumbai. Mumbai is the commercial capital of India. (*which*)
2. My mother is going to host a TV show on cooking. She cooks very well. (*who*)
3. These sports persons are going to meet the President. Their performance has been excellent. (*whose*)
4. Lencho prayed to God. His eyes see into our minds. (*whose*)
5. This man cheated me. I trusted him. (*whom*)

Ans: 1. I often go to Mumbai, which is the commercial capital of India.

2. My mother, who cooks very well, is going to host a TV show on cooking.

3. These sports persons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.

4. Lencho prayed to God, whose eyes see into our minds.

5. This man, whom I trusted, cheated me.

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4. Find sentences in the story with negative words, which express the following ideas

emphatically.

1. The trees lost all their leaves.

Ans: The trees lost all their leaves.

Not a single leaf remained on the trees.

2. The letter was addressed to God himself.

Ans: The letter was addressed to God himself.

It was nothing less than a letter to God.

3. The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Ans: The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.

Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

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5. In pairs, find metaphors from the story to complete the table below. Try to say what qualities are being compared. One has been done for you.

<i>Object</i>	<i>Metaphor</i>	<i>Quality or Feature Compared</i>
Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains.
Raindrops		
Hailstones		
Locusts		
		An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead.
	An ox of a man.	

Ans:

<i>Object</i>	<i>Metaphor</i>	<i>Quality or Feature Compared</i>
Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains

Raindrops	A curtain of rain	The draping or covering of an area by a curtain
Hailstones	The frozen pearls	The resemblance in color and hardness of a pearl
Locusts	A plague of locusts	The consequences (destruction) of plague
Locusts	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
Man	An ox of a man	The working of an ox in the fields (hard work)
