



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject :English

Topic :A Letter to God

Worksheet .No. : 1

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____

Class &Division : _____

Roll Number : ____

S.No. Read the following extracts and answer the questions. Marks

1 . *“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.”* 4

- (a) What did the earth need?
The earth needs a downpour or a shower.
- (b) What did Lencho do throughout the morning?
Lencho waited for the rain.
- (c) Why had Lencho kept looking towards the north-east?
Lencho kept looking towards the north-east as the rain-clouds were to come from that direction.
- (d) What promised a good harvest?
The river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers promised a good harvest.

2. *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”.* 4

- (a) What was Lencho thinking while writing the letter?
Lencho thought that the post office employees had stolen a part of his money sent by God.
- (b) Why did the postmaster open the mailbox immediately after Lencho had posted his letter?
The postmaster wanted to see Lencho’s response after receiving the money. He thought Lencho must have thanked God for sending the money.
- (c) How much money had Lencho asked for?
Lencho asked for one Hundred Pesos.
- (d) Why did Lencho not want to send the rest of the money by mail?
Lencho thought post office employees were dishonest people who had cheated him.

3. *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* 4

and the little ones are fives.”

- (a) Why did Lencho go out in the rain?
Lencho went out in the rain to have the happiness of feeling the rain on his body.
- (b) Why were the raindrops like ‘new coins’ for Lencho?
They were like new coins because Lencho thought that it would yield a good harvest and help him earn money.
- (c) How did these new coins ultimately bring disaster to his cornfield?
These new coins i.e., rain drops soon turned into hailstones which destroyed all his crops and ruined his hopes.
- (d) Explain the description: ‘The air was fresh and sweet’.
The clouds brought cool and sweet-smelling air.

4. *“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 of the hailstorm”* 4

- (a) What help has he asked for?
Lencho asked for a hundred pesos in order to sow his field again.
- (b) Why did he need help?
Lencho needed help because the hailstorm had destroyed his crop, and his family would go hungry.
- (c) Why did Lencho write a letter to God?
Lencho’s crops were completely destroyed by the hailstorm. He had nobody to help but he had faith in God.
- (d) Why was Lencho and his family in distress?
Lencho’s crops were completely destroyed by the hailstones. He feared that he and his family would go hungry.

5. *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.”*

- (a) Why did no leaf remain on the trees?
A hailstorm had struck, leaving the field bare.
- (b) How did Lencho feel after the storm?
Lencho was utterly unhappy and distressed.
- (c) What was the major effect of the hailstorm on the field?
The corn was totally destroyed.
- (d) What made Lencho sad?
Lencho was left with no corn to sow and feed his family.

6. *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.*

- (a) How did Lencho feel when he saw his fields covered with the curtain of rain?

Lencho felt satisfied.

(b) What followed the rain?

A strong wind followed the rain.

(c) What did hailstone resemble?

They resembled with silver coins.

(d) How did these new silver coins bring disaster to him?

These new silver coins the hailstones destroyed all his crops and ruined his hopes.

7. *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.*

(a) What did Lencho think throughout the night?

Lencho thought of one hope—the help of God.

(b) What does 'Lencho was an ox of a man' imply?

It's a metaphor which means Lencho was very hardworking—he worked like an ox.

(c) Which line suggests that Lencho was literate?

"The following Sunday... he began to write a letter" This line suggests that Lencho was literate.

(d) What strange action did Lencho take?

Lencho's odd action was his letter addressed to God.

8. *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."*

(a) What was the postmaster's reaction to seeing the letter?

The postmaster first laughed then became serious.

(b) What did the postmaster wish?

To have as much faith in God as the writer who wrote the letter to God had.

(c) What kind of person was the postmaster?

The postmaster was an amiable, kind, pleasant and friendly person.

(d) How did the postmaster help Lencho?

The postmaster asked his colleagues and friends to contribute some money as an act of charity. He himself contributed some and mailed it to Lencho.

Short answer questions (30-40 words)

2

(a) Whom did Lencho write a letter? What did he ask for?

Ans. When Lencho's annual crop was completely destroyed due to heavy rains and hailstorm and there was no one to help him during the crisis. At that time Lencho wrote a letter to God. He wrote the letter requesting God to send 100 pesos so that he could sow his fields again till the next crop.

(b) Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

Ans. The postmaster was a kind, generous, helpful and God-fearing man. When he received the letter written to God asking for 100 pesos, he felt sympathetic towards Lencho. Hence, he decided to help Lencho. He gave a part of his salary and asked the other employees to help. He signed the letter 'God' in order to preserve the man's faith in God.

(c) How far would you agree that one's positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances?

Ans. It is absolutely true that optimism can bring about a spark of brightness even in adverse situations. It was Lencho's innocent optimism that eventually led to his getting seventy pesos. In fact, it was his positivity despite the hailstorm that he even wrote a letter to God in the first place. His hope finally triumphed.

(d) Was Lencho surprised to find a letter with money in it? Why/Why not?

Ans. Lencho was not at all surprised to receive the envelope with the money in it because he had complete faith in God. His unshakeable faith gave him firm confidence.

(e) What impression do you form about the postmaster after reading the story 'A Letter to God'?

Ans. The postmaster was a kind, generous, helpful, amiable and God-fearing man. He was generous, as he helped Lencho with 70 pesos. He also wrote a reply to Lencho's letter in order to maintain his faith in God.

(f) Why was Lencho angry? What did he do?

Ans. Lencho had deep faith in God and hence wrote a letter to God asking for 100 pesos. But when he received 70 pesos instead of 100, he was angry. He wrote another letter to God asking him to send the rest of the money, but not through the post-office as they were a 'bunch of crooks'.

(g) Lencho calls the raindrops 'new coins'. Why does he call them so?

Ans. Lencho hoped to get good crops because of raindrops. He thought he would earn good money so he called them new coins. But raindrops soon turned into hailstones which destroyed all his crops and ruined his hopes.

(h) Why were Lencho and his family in distress? Whom did he ask for help?

Ans. Lencho's crops were completely destroyed by the hailstones. He feared that he and his family would go hungry. He had no one to help but he had full faith in God whose eyes see everything. He wrote a letter to God asking for a hundred pesos to sow the crop and live until the next harvest.

(i) What are the raindrops compared to and why?

Ans. It starts raining. Lencho is very happy. He compares the big drops of rain to ten-cent pieces and the little ones to five-cent pieces. Lencho needs rain for a good harvest. If he has good crops, he will get money. That is why he compares the raindrops to coins.

- (j) "Now we're really going to get some water woman." Is Lencho sure that it is going to rain? Give a reason for your answer.

Ans. Yes. Lencho is sure that it is going to rain. He needs rain for his crops. He has been gazing at the sky since morning. He has perhaps seen some signs of coming rain. True to his prediction. It soon starts raining.

- (k) Did the letter reach God? Why did the postmaster send a reply to Lencho?

Ans. No, the letter did not reach God. The postman saw the letter addressed to God. He took the letter to the postmaster. The postmaster did not want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So, he sent a reply to Lencho. He sent seventy pesos to him.

- (l) Lencho describes the post office employees as "a bunch of crooks."

(1) Were they a bunch of crooks?

(ii) How would you describe them?

Ans. Lencho thought that the post office employees had cheated him. So, he calls them "a bunch of crooks." But they were not crooks. They were kind persons. They wanted to help Lencho. So, they collected seventy pesos and sent the money to Lencho by mail.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (100-120 words)

8

- i) Lencho received the money and a letter from God but still, he was not happy. Was it not in his attitude to be happy with what he achieved? Did he not know the pleasure of being grateful to others? Reflecting on the values required to lead a happy life, explain in about 100-120 words.

Ans. Lencho had full faith in God and hence, had written a letter to God asking for 100 pesos. But when he received the money and a letter from God, he was not happy. It was not his attitude to be happy with what he received, nor was he ungrateful to God. He was angry because he had received 70 pesos instead of 100. He did not doubt God for it. He wrote another letter to God asking him to send the rest of the money but not through the post-office as they were a bunch of crooks. This shows that Lencho had full faith in God and was confident that his desire would be fulfilled. It was Lencho's innocent optimism that eventually led to his getting seventy pesos. Optimism and faith can lead to a happy life.

- ii) The postmaster represents such people who still believe in helping others. Mention those values of the postmaster which you would like to emulate in yourself. Write in 100-120 words.

Ans. The postmaster was a kind, generous, helpful, amiable and God-fearing man. He received a letter from Lencho which was written to God asking for 100 pesos so that he could sow his fields again. The postman felt sympathetic towards Lencho. He decided to help Lencho. He gave up a part of his salary and asked all other employees to help. Even friends were made to contribute for a cause of charity, and he managed to collect 70 pesos. He sent the money to Lencho along with a reply. He did so in order to preserve the man's faith in God. This shows the postmaster was a nice man at heart.

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iii) Give the character-sketch of Lencho.

Ans. Lencho was a hardworking farmer. He laboured like an ox. He had good knowledge of farming and knew his crop needed a downpour to give him good yield.

Lencho had great faith in God. He knew how to read and write. He wrote a letter to God for help when his crops were totally ruined by hailstones.

He was a simple and innocent farmer. He could not reason out things. He blamed the post-office employees for cheating him of 30 pesos and called them 'A bunch of crooks'.

But Lencho was a caring head of the family. He got sad and worried that his family would have to go hungry.

iv) How do you think the postmaster felt when he received Lencho's second letter? What do you think he did?

Ans. When Lencho opened the letter, he found only seventy pesos in it. He thought that God could not make a mistake. Perhaps the post office employees had cheated him. He wrote another letter to God. He wrote that the post office employees were a bunch of crooks. The story does not tell us what the postmaster felt when he received the second letter. Perhaps he felt shocked. It is possible that he realized that sometimes even good intentions are misunderstood. I think he met Lencho and explained everything to him. He told him that the post-office employees were not a bunch of crooks. In fact, they were kind and helpful. They had collected money to help him.