
CLASS -X ENGLISH
NCERT SOLUTIONS-First Flight
A Letter to God

Answer

Page No: 5 Oral Comprehension Check

Answer1: Lencho hoped for rains as the only thing that his field of ripe corn needed was a shower.

Answer2: 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.

Answer3: The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow and very large hailstones began to fall along with the rain.
All the crop in Lencho's fields destroyed.

Answer4: After hail stopped, Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. 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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Answer1: Lencho had faith in God. He believed that God's eyes see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. He wrote a letter to God saying that he needed a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

Answer2: Postmaster read the letter.

Answer3: The Postmaster first laughed. But then he became serious. He was deeply moved by the writer's faith in God. He did not want to shake this faith. So he decided to collect the money and send it to Lencho.

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Answer1: 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 reply from God.

Answer2: When he finished counting money he found only seventy pesos. But he demanded hundred pesos. He was confident that God could neither make a mistake nor deny him what he had requested. Therefore, he concluded that the post office employees must have taken the remaining thirty pesos.

Thinking about the Text

Answer1: Lencho had complete faith in God. The sentences in the story that show this are as follows:

- (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."
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- (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 rest, since I need it very much."

Answer2: Postmaster was moved by Lencho's complete faith in the God. So, he decided to send money to Lencho. Moreover, the postmaster did not want to shake Lencho's faith in God. So, he signed the letter 'God'. It was a good ploy to convey a message that God had himself written the letter.

Answer3: No, Lencho does not try to find out who had sent the money to him. This is because he had great confidence in God and never suspected that it could be someone else other than God who would send him the money. His faith in God was so strong that he believed that God had sent him the money.

Answer4: Lencho thinks that the post office people have taken the money. It is the post office people who send the money to Lencho. But, on the other hand, Lencho thinks they have stolen his money. He calls them crooks. Thus there is an element of irony in this situation.

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Answer5: I don't think there can be any such people in the real world. Lencho is literate and yet he doesn't know how his letter will reach God without any address.
He probably would be naïve and unquestioning.

Answer6: The conflict between humans and nature is shown by the destruction of Lencho's crops by the hailstorm. As the crops failed by hail, Lencho started feeling sad and gloomy after the storm appropriately projects the conflict of the nature and the man. The Story also shown another conflict, between humans themselves. The postmaster, along with the help of the other post office employees, sent Lencho the money that they could manage to collect. 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

Answer1:

1. Cyclone
2. Gale
3. Typhoon
4. Tornado
5. Hurricane
6. Whirlwind

Answer2:

	A		B
1.	Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? I <i>hope</i> so.	–	wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
2.	I <i>hope</i> you don't mind my saying	–	showing concern that what you say

	this, but I don't like the way you are arguing.		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
4.	We were <i>hoping against hope</i> that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	–	wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely
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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Answer3:

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 sportspersons, 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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Answer4:

1. The trees lost all their leaves.
Not a leaf remained on the trees.
2. 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.
Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

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Answer5:

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
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 colour 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)
