

# DETAILED TEXT



## All Things Bright and Beautiful

C.F. Alexander

### A. Lead – in:

We see and enjoy many things around us such as beautiful sunrises and sunsets, trees and flowers, rivers and mountains, birds and animals. We smell the fragrance of flowers and feel the change of seasons. We have eyes to see all these and lips to praise the beauty of the creation. Have you ever thought who has created such beautiful things for us ? Who has blessed us with the senses of sight, smell and feeling ? Read the poem to know what the poet thinks about these things.

### B. Let's listen to the Poem :

- The teacher reads the whole poem aloud. Listen to the teacher only. Don't open the book.
- Open your text book when the teacher reads aloud a portion of the poem.
- Listen to him / her and mark the manner of reading.
- Read the poem silently to understand. Refer to the glossary if you find some words / expressions difficult.

### C. The Text

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruit in the garden,  
He made them everyone.

The tall trees in the green wood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
We gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

#### **D. About the Poet :**

Cecil Frances Alexander was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1818. She is a famous hymn writer and poet. Her famous works are 'Hymn for Children', 'Christmas Carol', 'Once in Royal David's City', 'Verses for Holy Season'. This poem is included in 'Hymn for Children'.

### **E. Notes and Glossary :**

glowing - bright

purple-headed- the rays of the setting sun make the mountain – top appear purple,  
i.e., bluish red.

meadow - an open area of grassland.

rushes - varieties of waterside plants, some of which are used for making  
mats and baskets.

### **F. Let's read and understand:**

1. What does the poet think of all things ?
2. Who has made all these things ?
3. What are the little things mentioned in the poem ?
4. How does the poet describe the beauty of flowers ?
5. How does the poet describe the little birds ?
6. How is the mountain described in the poem ?
7. Why does it appear so ?
8. What brightens up the sky ?
9. How does the sky look during the sunset ?
10. Which are the two seasons mentioned in the poem ?
11. Why does the poet consider the summer sun pleasant ?
12. What do we enjoy in the green wood ?
13. How are the meadows useful for us ?

14. Where do the rushes grow ?
15. Why do people gather rushes ?
16. Why has God given us eyes ?
17. What should our lips tell ?
18. How does the poet describe God ?

<b>G. Let's appreciate:</b>
-----------------------------

- The poet describes many things in the poem. Make a list of the things described in the poem.
  1. Which of the things are bright and which of the things are small ?
  2. Which are the lines in the poem where the poet expresses his gratitude to God ?
  3. Is this poem a description or a prayer ?
  4. Why do you think so ?
- Each stanza of the poem is a unit. Mark the stanzas and the last word in each line. You will see that the last word of one line is similar in sound to the last word of another line. These are rhyming words.
- Let's do some activities :

(The teacher is free to decide whether all the activities shall be done by the whole class or each group will do one activity.)

### **Activity- I :**

Students are divided into groups of four or five. Each group is asked to find the last word in each line of a stanza and put together all the words which have similar sounds. Each group is asked to present their findings.

**Activity- II :**

(a) Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate words given in brackets and read the lines.

1. God has given it \_\_\_\_\_
2. So it can \_\_\_\_\_,
3. And it beautifully \_\_\_\_\_
4. While going up in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(fly, sings, sky, wings)

- (b)
1. The meadows look \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Where we run and \_\_\_\_\_
  3. And the river is \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Where we bathe \_\_\_\_\_.  
(play, every day, clean, green)

**Activity- III :**

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

1. He gave us ears to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He gave us \_\_\_\_\_ to see.
3. He gave us \_\_\_\_\_ to taste things.
4. He gave us skin to \_\_\_\_\_ things.
5. He gave us nose to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We enjoy God's creation through the five \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned above.

**Activity- IV :**

Given below are some clues. Pick up the lines of the poem following the clues.

flower \_\_\_\_\_  
colour \_\_\_\_\_  
bird \_\_\_\_\_  
wings \_\_\_\_\_

Now compare these lines with the appropriate stanza of the poem. What change in the rhyming pattern do you mark ?

#### **H. Let's listen and speak:**

Students are divided into groups of four to five. Each group is given a word from the poem. The members of a group discuss the word among themselves for five minutes. Then one group has to answer the questions on the word asked by the other groups. The following words may be picked up from the text :

mountain, sunset, sunrise, winter, summer, sun, river, garden, green wood, meadow, rushes

[This can be used as a competitive game among the groups. Credit can be given for the number of correct answers to the questions by the members of a group. A maximum of ten questions shall be asked by each group and be given credit. At the end of the game, the total score is calculated for the winners and runners up or serial positions of the groups. The teacher is to provide an equal number of words to each group and decide the equal number of questions to be asked by each group as well as the credit points for each correct answer. Also, the teacher can devise any other competitive game with the purpose of facilitating listening and speaking. ]

#### **I. Let us write:**

Read the line : The tall trees in the green wood.

Trees are useful for mankind in many ways. Given below are some clues. Write a few lines on each.

## Tree

- Construction of a house
- Furniture
- Rainfall
- Temperature control
- Soil erosion
- Deforestation
- Afforestation.





## A Letter to God

G. L. Fuentes

### A. Lead – in:

Have you ever written a letter to God ? Did you ever come across someone writing a letter to God ? People believe faith can move mountains. But what should we put our faith in ? This is the question this story delicately poses.

Lencho is a farmer who writes a letter to God asking for a sum of money when his crops fail. Does Lencho's letter reach God ? Does God send him the money ? Think and try to answer these questions. Before you begin to read the story, try to imagine how it would develop and what conclusion it might arrive at.

### B. The Text:

The house - the only one in the entire valley— sat on the **crest** of a low hill. From this height one would 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.

“Now we're really going to get some water, 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.”



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.

"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."

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."

All through the night, Lencho thought only of 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.

“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.

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 !”

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’.

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.

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."

### **C. About the Author:**

**Gregorio Lopez Fuentes** (1895-1966) was a Mexican novelist, poet, and journalist. Fuentes started writing at the age of 15, when the Mexican Revolution began. Many of his books are related to the civil conflict. His stories are exciting and humorous. Many of his works are concerned with the oppression of Americans. He was awarded the National Prize of Arts and Science in 1935.

### **D. Notes & Glossary:**

crest	:	top/the highest part of a hill
dotted with	:	scattered over an area
predict	:	foretell the future
drape	:	cover
locusts	:	insects which fly in big groups and destroy crops.
solitary	:	lonely / single
upset	:	disturbed
conscience	:	an inner sense of right and wrong
peso	:	currency of several Latin American countries

amiable : friendly and pleasant  
correspondence : an act of writing letters  
resolution : a firm decision  
contentment : satisfaction  
crooks : dishonest persons / people

**E. Let's understand the text :**

- 1) Where did Lencho live ?
- 2) What did he hope for ?
- 3) What did he say about the raindrops ?
- 4) How did the rain change ?
- 5) What happened to Lencho's corn fields ?
- 6) Who did Lencho have faith in ?
- 7) Who did he write a letter to ?
- 8) Who read the letter ?
- 9) What did the postmaster do ?
- 10) Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it ?
- 11) What was Lencho's reaction after getting the letter ?

**F. Let's read between the lines:**

- (a) (i) Why did Lencho keep on looking at the sky throughout the morning?
- (ii) Why was the field white after the storm ?
- (iii) Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'new coins' ?
- (iv) Why did Lencho prefer locusts to the storm ?
- (v) Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him ?  
Why / Why not ?