



ENGLISH

CLASS 10

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INDEX

CHAPTER – 1	A LETTER TO GOD
CHAPTER- 2	NELSON MANDELA LONG WALK TO FREEDOM
CHAPTER – 3	TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING
CHAPTER- 4	FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
CHAPTER – 5	GLIMPSES OF INDIA
CHAPTER – 6	MIJIBIL THE OTTER
CHAPTER – 7	MADAM RIDES THE BUS
CHAPTER – 8	THE SERMON AT BENARES
CHAPTER – 9	THE PROPOSAL

CHAPTER – 1

A LETTER TO GOD

- G. L. Fuentes

2 MARK QUESTIONS

1. What did Lencho hope for?

Answer:

Lencho hoped for a good rain as it was much needed for a good harvest.

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

Answer:

Lencho compared the raindrops with new coins because they were promising him a good harvest resulting in more prosperity.

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

Answer:

The rain changed into hailstones as a strong wind began to blow and huge hailstones began to fall along with the rain. All the crops in Lencho’s field got destroyed because of the weather conditions.

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

Answer:

Lencho was filled with grief after the hail stopped as everything was ruined and there was nothing that he could feed his family with. He could see a bleak future for him and his family.

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

Answer:

Lencho had firm faith in God. He believed ' that God sees everything, even what is deep in one's conscience and help everyone in one's problems. He wrote a letter to God demanding him a hundred pesos to sow his field again.

6. Who read the letter?

Answer:

The postmaster read the letter.

7. What did the postmaster do after reading a letter?

Answer:

The postmaster laughed when he read Lencho's letter but soon he became serious and was moved by the

writer's faith in God. He didn't want to shake Lencho's faith. So, he decided to collect money and send it to Lencho on behalf of God.

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

Answer:

Lencho was not surprised to find a letter with money from God as he believed that God will help him.

9. What made Lencho angry?

Answer:

There were only seventy pesos in the envelope whereas Lencho had demanded a hundred pesos. The difference in the amount made him angry.

4 MARK QUESTIONS

1. Who is Lencho, and what does he write a letter to God about?

Answer:

Lencho is a farmer facing the devastation of his crops due to a hailstorm. In his letter to God, he requests a hundred pesos to sow his field again and sustain his family until the next harvest, expressing the dire consequences of the recent hailstorm. Lencho's character represents the common man dealing with the unpredictability of nature and seeking divine assistance in times of hardship.

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

Answer:

The postmaster sends money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho's faith in God alive and firm as he was completely moved by it.

When postmaster reads the letter of Lencho to God, he becomes serious and does not want to shake his faith and decides to answer the letter. He gathers money with the help of his post office employees and friends on behalf of God and signs the letter 'God' so that Lencho's faith does not get shaken.

3. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why or why not?

Answer:

Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him because he never suspected the presence of God and had complete faith in God. He could not believe that it could be – anybody else other than him who would send him the money.

His faith in God was so strong that he believed that he had sent money to him for his help in his problem.

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).

Answer:

Lencho thinks that the post office employees have taken the rest of the money as he had demanded a hundred pesos from God and in the letter there was only seventy pesos and God cannot make such a mistake. So, he assumes that they have stolen the money.

The irony in this situation is that Lencho suspects those people who helped him in his problem and tried to keep his faith alive in God.

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**

Answer:

It is almost impossible to find a person like Lencho as he is an unquestioning and naive kind of person. He is not stupid if he doesn't know who has sent him money or a letter will reach God without any address. It is Lencho's faith in God. In real world, people are selfish and greedy and Lencho is totally lovable and different.

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

Answer:

Conflict between Humans and Nature: The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crop by the hailstorm as Lencho was expecting a good rain to have good harvest as that was the only hope he had for his earning. He worked so hard to feed his family, but nature turned violent and destroyed everything.

Conflict between Humans and Humans: The story also illustrated another conflict, between humans themselves as the postmaster alongwith his friends and staff sent Lencho money that Lencho demanded from God although they didn't know Lencho. Lencho blamed them for taking away some amount of money. He called them "a bunch of crook". This shows that man does not have faith in other man, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

8 MARK QUESTIONS

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

Answer:

Lencho has complete faith in God as he is instructed that God knows everything and helps us in our problems. There are few sentences which show this

- 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.
- 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.
- "God", he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year".
- He wrote 'To God' on the envelope, put the letter inside and still troubled, went to town.
- God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested.

2. What unusual belief does Lencho hold about the raindrops during the storm?

Answer:

Lencho holds an unusual belief that the raindrops during the storm are not ordinary rain but new coins falling from the sky. He imagines that the big raindrops are ten-cent pieces, and the smaller ones are five-cent coins. This peculiar perception highlights Lencho's optimistic

and hopeful nature, finding a positive outlook even in the midst of a destructive hailstorm that ruins his crops.

3. Why does the postmaster decide to answer Lencho's letter?

Answer:

The postmaster decides to answer Lencho's letter to maintain and support Lencho's faith in God. When the postmaster receives Lencho's letter addressed to God, he realizes the sincerity and depth of Lencho's belief. To avoid shaking Lencho's faith, the postmaster comes up with the idea of responding to the letter on behalf of God. This decision reflects the postmaster's understanding and compassion, even though he acknowledges that answering the letter would require more than just goodwill, ink, and paper.

4. How does Lencho react when he receives the money from the postmaster?

Answer:

Lencho reacts with anger when he receives the money from the postmaster. He expected to receive a hundred pesos, but when he counts the money, he finds that he has received only a little more than half of the amount he requested. This discrepancy infuriates Lencho because he believes in the honesty and perfection of God. Lencho is convinced that God could not have made a mistake, and he feels betrayed by the incomplete amount of money he received. His anger prompts him to write another letter to God, expressing his dissatisfaction and requesting the rest of the money.

5. Why does Lencho ask for the rest of the money but insists it not be sent through the mail?

Answer:

Lencho asks for the rest of the money but insists it not be sent through the mail because he distrusts the post office employees. In his second letter to God, Lencho believes that the post office workers are dishonest and refers to them as "a bunch of crooks." Due to this lack of trust, he expresses concern that if the money is sent through the mail, the post office employees might take part of it or manipulate the delivery. Lencho insists on an alternative method to ensure the safe receipt of the full amount without any deductions.

6. What does Lencho write in his second letter to God?

Answer:

In his second letter to God, Lencho writes:

"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."

7. What does Lencho write in his second letter to God?

Answer:

In his second letter to God, Lencho writes:

"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."

8. How does the postmaster react upon reading Lencho's second letter?

Answer:

Upon reading Lencho's second letter, the postmaster reacts with surprise and amusement. He finds Lencho's lack of faith in the post office employees humorous. The postmaster realizes that Lencho believes the post office workers are dishonest and refers to them as a "bunch of crooks." Despite Lencho's distrust, the postmaster maintains his commitment to Lencho and attempts to fulfill his request.

9. What does Lencho's second letter reveal about his character?

Answer:

Lencho's second letter reveals several aspects of his character. Firstly, it highlights his strong belief in the honesty and integrity of God

compared to his skepticism about the post office employees. Lencho's unwavering faith in God's abilities is evident in his expectation for divine intervention and the rest of the money. Additionally, his distrust of the post office workers, whom he labels as "crooks," reflects a certain level of naivety and simplicity in his character. Lencho's persistence in seeking help and expressing his disappointment when the money falls short also underscores his determination and straightforward nature. Overall, Lencho's character is portrayed as a combination of faith, simplicity, and resilience.

10. How does the story portray the conflict between humans and nature?

Answer:

The story "A Letter to God" portrays the conflict between humans and nature in two significant ways. Firstly, there is a struggle between Lencho, a farmer, and the unpredictable forces of nature. Lencho relies on the rain for his crops, and initially, he anticipates the much-needed rainfall to ensure a successful harvest. However, the sudden change in weather, leading to a hailstorm, becomes a destructive force that ruins his entire cornfield, symbolizing the inherent conflict between human agricultural efforts and the uncontrollable elements of nature.

Secondly, the story emphasizes the impact of the hailstorm on Lencho's family, creating a situation where they face the possibility of going hungry due to the loss of their crops. This highlights the broader conflict between humans and their dependence on nature for sustenance. The natural calamity disrupts the delicate balance that farmers like Lencho seek, underscoring the vulnerability of human livelihoods to the whims of nature.

11. What lesson can be drawn from Lencho's unwavering faith despite the challenges he faces?

Answer:

Lencho's unwavering faith despite the challenges he faces teaches us the powerful lesson of resilience and the strength of belief. Despite experiencing a devastating hailstorm that destroyed his entire crop, Lencho doesn't lose faith in God's ability to provide and help. His commitment to writing a letter to God seeking assistance showcases an unyielding trust in divine intervention, even in the face of adversity.

This teaches us the importance of maintaining hope and faith during difficult times. Lencho's character reflects resilience, determination, and an optimistic outlook, suggesting that faith can serve as a source of strength and motivation to overcome challenges. The story encourages us to embrace a positive mindset and belief in something greater, fostering the idea that hope can endure even in the midst of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

GRAMMAR

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?

- gale,
- whirlwind,
- cyclone,
- hurricane,
- tornado,
- typhoon.

Question 1.

A violent tropical storm in which strong winds move in a circle c__.

Answer:

cyclone

Question 2.

An extremely strong wind __ a __.

Answer:

gale

Question 3.

A violent tropical storm with very strong wind __ p __.

Answer:

typhoon

Question 4.

**A violent storm whose center is a cloud in the shape of a funnel
__n__.**

Answer:

tornado

Question 5.

**A violent storm with very strong winds, especially in the Western
Atlantic Ocean __ r__.**

Answer:

Hurricane

Question 6.

**A very strong wind that moves very fast in a spinning movement
and causes a lot of damage __l__.**

Answer:

whirlwind

2. Match the sentences in column A with the meaning of ‘hope’ in column B.

Answer:

	A		B
1.	Will you get the subjects you want to study in college? I hope so.	(a)	a feeling that something good will probably happen.
2.	I hope you don't mind my saying this but I don't like the way you are arguing.	(b)	thinking that this would happen (it may or may not have happened.)
3.	This discovery will give new hope to HIV/AIDS sufferers.	(c)	stopped believing that this good thing would happen.

4.	We were hoping against hope that the judges would not notice our mistakes.	(d)	wanting something to happen (and thinking it quite possible)
5.	I called early in the hope of speaking to her before she went to school.	(e)	showing concern that what you say should not offend or disturb the other person a way of being polite.
6.	Just when everybody had given up hope, the fishermen came back, seven days after the cyclone.	(f)	wishing for something to happen, although this is very unlikely.

Answer:

1. (b)
2. (e)
3. (a)
4. (f)
5. (d)
6. (c)

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

Question 1.

I often go to Mumbai. Mumbai is the commercial capital of India, (which)

Answer:

I often go to Mumbai which is the commercial capital of India.

Question 2.

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

Answer:

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

Question 3.

These sportspersons are going to meet the President. Their performance has been excellent, (whose)

Answer:

These sportspersons, whose performance has been excellent, are going to meet the President.

Question 4.

Lencho prayed to God. His eyes see into our minds, (whose)

Answer:

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

Question 5.

This man cheated me. I trusted him. (whom)

Answer:

This man whom I trusted cheated me.

4. Metaphors: 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.

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
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	

Answer:

Object	Metaphor	Quality or Feature Compared
Cloud	Huge mountains of clouds	The mass or 'hugeness' of mountains
Raindrops	Coins	The money that the good crops will bring when sold
Hailstones	Frozen pearls	Resembles the colour, hardness and brightness of pearls
Locusts	A plague of locusts	The destruction caused by plague and its consequences
Locusts	A plague of locusts	An epidemic (a disease) that spreads very rapidly and leaves many people dead
Lencho	An ox of a man	Strong and hardworking nature resembles the working of an ox in the fields

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

- (a) The trees lost all their leaves.**
- (b) The letter was addressed to God himself.**
- (c) The postman saw this address for the first time in his career.**

Answer:

- (a) Not a leaf remained on the trees.
- (b) It was nothing less than a letter to God.
- (c) Never in his career as a postman had he seen that address.

SUMMARY

Chapter 1 of Class 10 English NCERT prose is titled "A Letter to God."

The story revolves around a man named Lencho, who is a poor farmer living in a small village. Lencho is known for his hard work and honesty. Unfortunately, a hailstorm destroys his entire crop, leaving him devastated and in despair.

In his desperation, Lencho decides to write a letter to God, asking for help. He believes that God can provide him with the financial assistance he needs to survive until the next harvest. Lencho expresses his deep faith and trust in God through his heartfelt letter.

The interesting twist in the story comes when Lencho sends the letter through the mail, addressed simply to "God." The local postmaster, amused by the letter's simplicity and moved by Lencho's sincerity, decides to help him. The postmaster collects money from his colleagues and sends it to Lencho in an anonymous letter, hoping to preserve Lencho's faith in God.

Lencho receives the letter, but to his surprise, he finds a sum of money enclosed. Believing that God has directly answered his plea, Lencho is thankful but expresses disappointment that some of the money is missing due to postal charges. This reaction highlights the irony of the situation, as Lencho's unwavering faith is contrasted with the postmaster's attempt to help him discreetly.

The story explores themes of faith, simplicity, and human kindness. It also serves as a commentary on the different ways people perceive and interpret events, particularly when it comes to matters of faith and belief in the divine.

POEM- DUST OF SNOW

- Robert Frost

1. What is a “dust of snow”? What does the poet say has changed his mood? How has the poet’s mood changed?

Answer:

The ‘dust of snow’ refers to the snowflakes and its fine particles. The poet’s mood changed due to the sudden shower of snowflakes. He was dismayed earlier, but it changed to a happy and joyful mood as he felt refreshed and energized to enjoy the rest of the day.

2. How does Frost present nature in this poem? The following questions may help you to think of an answer.

(i) What are the birds that are usually named in poems? Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

(ii) Again, what is “a hemlock tree”? Why doesn’t the poet write about a more ‘beautiful’ tree such as a maple, or an oak, or a pine?

(iii) What do the ‘crow’ and ‘hemlock’ represent — joy or sorrow? What does the dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree stand for?

Answer:

In the poem, Frost presents nature in a very unconventional manner.

1. Generally, poets consider birds and trees to represent beauty and positive qualities. They write about birds such as parrots, peacocks, cuckoos, etc., and trees with beautiful flowers and bearing tasty fruits. In this poem, Frost mentions a crow, which is often not used in poems. Generally, a crow is a black bird with a harsh voice and is considered a bad omen. Therefore, the word 'crow' in the poem brings foreboding and depressing pictures to our mind.
2. Frost mentions "a hemlock tree", which is a poisonous plant having small white flowers. The poet however, didn't choose to use a maple, pine or oak tree that symbolize beauty and joyfulness. Instead, he chose the hemlock tree while leaving aside all the beautiful trees of nature to represent his sadness and regretful feelings.
3. The 'crow' and 'hemlock' tree represent sorrow and depressing mood and feelings felt by the poet in this world. The dust of snow symbolized a sense of natural joy and energy in him. The dust of snow that the crow shakes off a hemlock tree refers to the sad and depressing moments experienced by the poet initially which were gone as he enters into a joyful and optimistic feeling.

3. Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day?

Answer:

Yes, there have been innumerable times when I felt sad, depressed and hopeless due to some unavoidable circumstances in my life. Sometimes, such moments were caused due to indifferent behaviour and attitude of other people and sometimes due to my own conduct. On one occasion, I returned tired and upset from school. Upon reaching home, my puppy jumped and embraced me. This little joy literally changed my mood and I was overjoyed by such a nice gesture

by the little creature. This uplifted my mood for the rest of the day. I played with my puppy for a while and caressed him with love and affection.

SUMMARY

"Dust of Snow" is a short poem written by Robert Frost, and it is part of the Class 10 English NCERT curriculum.

The poem "Dust of Snow" describes a simple yet profound moment in the poet's life. The speaker, feeling burdened and disheartened, is standing under a hemlock tree when a crow shakes the tree, causing a dusting of snow to fall on the speaker. This seemingly ordinary incident has a transformative effect on the speaker's mood.

The dust of snow, symbolizing the light and pure snowflakes, miraculously changes the speaker's perspective and lifts his spirits. The burden on the speaker's heart is metaphorically represented by the "crow," a dark and ominous bird. The contrast between the dark crow and the white snow highlights the sudden and unexpected nature of the positive change.

The poem emphasizes the idea that even a small, seemingly insignificant event can have a significant impact on one's outlook on life. It conveys the message that nature has the power to bring about positive change and rejuvenate the human spirit. In this case, the dusting of snow serves as a symbol of hope and renewal, turning a gloomy day into a moment of beauty and inspiration.

POEM – FIRE AND ICE

- Robert Frost

1. There are many ideas about how the world will ‘end’. Do you think the world will end someday? Have you ever thought what would happen if the sun got so hot that it ‘burst’, or grew colder and colder?

Answer:

There are multiple theories about how the world will ‘end’. Yes, I do believe that the world will end someday as we all know that every particular thing which begins also has an end to it. This holds true for the world too, that if the Sun got so hot and it bursts, the entire life on Earth would perish immediately as the planet would not be able to tolerate the intensity of heat. On the contrary, if the Sun grew colder and colder, it is obvious that life will come to an end without sunlight. We are aware of the fact that sunlight is a rich source of energy to all the planets in the solar system.

2. For Frost, what do ‘fire’ and ‘ice’ stand for? Here are some ideas:

greed	avarice	cruelty	lust
conflict	fury	intolerance	rigidity
insensitivity	coldness	indifference	hatred

Answer:

‘Fire’ stands for greed, avarice, lust, conflict and fury. ‘Ice’ stands for cruelty, intolerance, rigidity, insensitivity, coldness, indifference and hatred.

3. What is the rhyme scheme of the poem? How does it help in bringing out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

Answer:

The rhyme scheme of the poem is: a, b, a, a, b, c, b, c, b.

This rhyme scheme helps in projecting the contrasting ideas of ‘fire’ and ‘ice’ that are presented in the poem. The poet Frost mentions both fire and ice as the probable ends of the planet Earth. He talks about how ‘fire’ represents desire and might be a possible cause of the end of the world. The poet also mentions ‘ice’ in the poem to symbolize the coldness and indifference that people might have towards one another, which will be a reason good enough to end the world. In the second stanza of the poem, the poet says that he knows enough about hate in this world and is sure that even destruction through hatred (ice) would be sufficient and adequate to bring about an end to the planet Earth.

SUMMARY

"Fire and Ice" is a poem written by Robert Frost and is part of the Class 10 English NCERT curriculum.

The poem "Fire and Ice" explores the theme of the end of the world and how it might occur. The speaker presents two possible scenarios for the apocalypse: one involving fire and the other involving ice.

In the first stanza, the speaker discusses the destructive power of fire. He describes the emotion of desire and passion as a form of internal fire that could lead to the world's destruction. The intense heat of fiery emotions is likened to the potential for a catastrophic end.

In the second stanza, the focus shifts to the destructive force of ice. The speaker suggests that hatred and coldness, represented by ice, could also lead to the world's demise. The freezing nature of ice is symbolic of a cold and emotionless state of being.

Ultimately, the poem suggests that either extreme—fire or ice—has the potential to bring about the end of the world. It explores the destructive capabilities of human emotions, whether they be the fiery passions of desire or the icy indifference of hatred.

"Frost" uses the metaphor of the world ending twice to emphasize the significance of these destructive forces. The brevity of the poem underscores the idea that these elemental forces, whether hot or cold, could lead to catastrophic consequences. The poem leaves readers with a sense of contemplation about human behavior and its potential impact on the world.