UDAAN 2025

A Letter to God
(First Flight)

English | Lecture - 01

By – Anurag Tyagi Sir

Topics *to be covered*

1. Orientation
2. Prose: A Letter to God
3. NCERT Questions

IT'S GAME TIME!

Unjumble as many words as possible!

Theme: Travel

1. u o j r y n e

an act of travelling from one place to another

2. c h s e l u d e

a plan for carrying out a process

3. i n e t r a y r i

a detailed plan or route of a journey

4. k r e n g t k i

go on a long journey, typically by foot

Unjumble as many words as possible!

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an act of travelling from one place to another

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go on a long journey, typically by foot

Topic : Orientation

A Harvard University study found that 80% of the success and achievements in one's life are determined via communication and only 20% by hard skills.

LSRW

L → Listening

S → Speaking

R → Reading

W → Writing

Syllabus Overview

First Flight Footprints without feet

28

Prose Poetry

Exam Pattern:

A	Reading Skills	20 Marks
B	Writing Skills and Grammar	20 Marks
C	Literature Textbooks and Supplementary Reading Text	40 Marks

10

10

How to Study English

1. Take regular classes
2. Make Notes
3. DHA/HW
4. Revision
5. Assessment/Test

How to make Notes

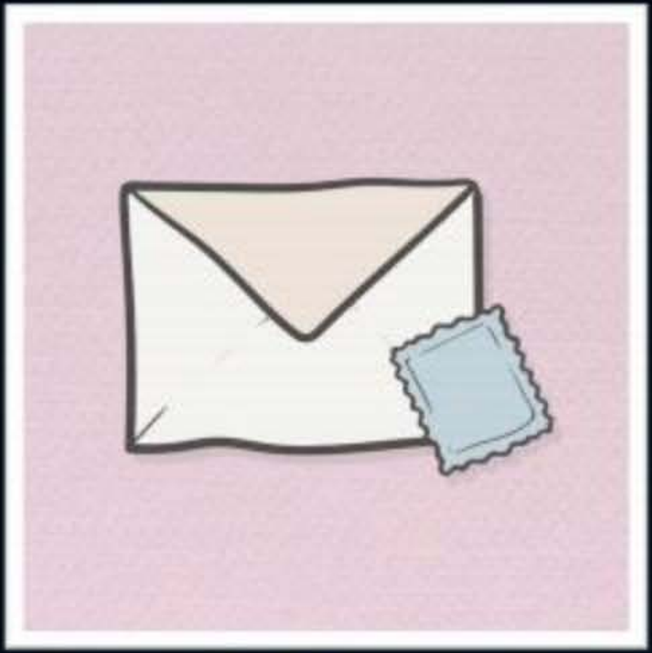
1. Key Points
2. Short & Crisp
3. Mnemonics
4. Self-notes

BODMAS

A Letter to God

Topic : A Letter to God

By- G. L. Fuentes



Lencho
↓
Protagonist

- *A Letter to God' is a story about faith. It is a interesting tale about a farmer, Lencho, who writes a letter to God when his crops are ruined, asking for a hundred pesos.*
- *Does Lencho's letter reach God?*
- *Does God send him the money?*

* Word-by-word Explanation

Yes →

No →

Topic : A Letter to God

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.

heavy rainfall

closely

Crest : top of a hill

"Now we're really going to get some water, woman."

evening meal

by grace of god

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.

Draped : covered (with cloth)

Expression

Parts of Speech

I am Anurag.

Figures of Speech / Literary Devices

Tools of Comparison

- Simile
  - like, as
- Metaphor

Topic : QUESTION

#Q. **Identify the literary device used in the following lines-**
"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."

A. Simile

B. Metaphor

C. Hyperbole

D. Personification

"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."

group

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."

Locusts : insects which fly in big swarms (groups) and destroy crops

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Lencho's hopes were belied because -

A the sunlight was enough

B the rain was still going on

C the hail lasted for an hour

D the children were unsuccessful

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What did Lencho said to his sons after the hail passed?

A. A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing.

B. This year we will have no corn. All our work, for nothing.

C. There's no one who can help us.

D. We'll all go hungry this year.

(A) Only A

(B) A and B

(C) B, C and D

(D) All of these

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

Section A

#Q. What did Lencho hope for?

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

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

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

Single ; lonely ; alone

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 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 Aman, 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 very hardworking man

dawn

Conscience : an inner sense of right and wrong

"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.

Peso : currency of several Latin American countries

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!"

communication via letters

Amiable : friendly and pleasant

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: promise 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.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Why did the postmaster turn serious on seeing the letter addressed to God?

A. Because he realised that Lencho was asking for money.

B. Because he realised that Lencho need government's help.

C. Because he realised that Lencho had immense faith in God.

D. Because Lencho had an important task to do.

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

Section B

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

#Q. Who read the letter?

#Q. What did the postmaster do then?

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.

Satisfaction

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." a dishonest person

MESSAGE :

1. We should have faith in god.
2. We should be kind & helpful, whether we get the acknowledgement.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. Why did Lencho ask the God not to send the money through mail?

A. He did not want to come to post office

B. He thought the post office employees had stolen it

C. Post office was far away

D. None of the above

Topic : MCQs

#Q. The story 'A Letter to God' is all about –

1. Love
2. Enmity
3. Faith
4. Dependence

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 3

(C) 2, 3 and 4

(D) 1, 2 and 3

IRONY

↓

expected response

↓

Something contradictory happens.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What is the irony in this lesson?

A. Lencho was sad after the hailstorm even though he was the one waiting for a shower.

B. Postmaster laughed at Lencho but still helped arrange money for him.

C. Lencho blamed the post office employees who in fact helped him.

D. There is no irony.

Topic : MCQs

#Q. What type of conflict does the chapter highlight?

A. Conflict between nature and humans

B. Conflict among humans

C. Conflict among God and nature

D. Both (B) and (C)

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

Section C

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

#Q. What made him angry?

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

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

#Q. Why does the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why does he sign the letter 'God'?

#Q. Did Lencho try to find out who had sent the money to him? Why/Why not?

#Q. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation?

Topic : NCERT QUESTION

#Q. 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

Topic : Summary

Lencho's Hope of Good Harvest

Lencho was a farmer who lived on the crest of a low hill with his family. His was the only house in the entire valley. His field was full of ripe corn and easily visible from the house. He was eagerly waiting for a good rain to have a good harvest so he could earn money for his family.

Lencho's Hope Turned into Despair

As Lencho had expected, it started raining at the time of supper. This made Lencho happy. He went outside to feel the rain on his body. The raindrops falling from the sky were like new coins for Lencho. However, suddenly strong winds began to blow and hailstones started to fall. The storm continued for about an hour and the corn fields were completely destroyed. The field now was covered with snow like a layer of white salt.

Lencho's Firm Belief in God

Though Lencho was a poor farmer and had lost all his crops, he had firm faith in God. He found in God his last hope and decided to write a letter to God for help. He asked God to send him a hundred pesos so that he could sow his field again and support his family until the new crops were harvested. He also wrote that if God would not help him, his family would die of hunger.

The Postmaster's Reaction to Lencho's Letter

In the post office, a postman found Lencho's letter and laughed after seeing the address on it. He took the letter to the postmaster.

The postmaster was kind and friendly person. As the postmaster read the letter, he realised that the sender (Lencho) had a true belief and faith in God. So, he decided to help the sender.

Topic : Glossary

- Crest – top of mountain or hill
- Downpour – a heavy fall of rain
- Shower – drizzle
- Intimately – very well
- Supper – an evening meal, typically a light or informal one
- God willing – by grace of God
- Regard – consider
- Draped – covered
- Plague – an unusually large number
- Solitary – single

- Instructed – taught
- Conscience – an inner sense of right and wrong
- Daybreak – dawn
- Peso – unit of currency
- Sow – planting the seeds of a crop
- Heartily – loudly
- Amiable – friendly
- Correspondence – letters sent or received
- Resolution – firm decision
- Charity – help or money given to those in need

- Contentment – a state of happiness and satisfaction
- Deed – a brave or noble act
- Wrinkling – a slight line or fold in the skin of the face
- Lick – to strike with tongue gently
- Affixed – attached
- Blow – hard hit
- Bunch – group
- Crooks – dishonest people

Topic : QUESTION

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

Ans. When the hail stopped, Lencho became sad. All his flowering crops were destroyed due to the hailstones. He felt that no one can help his family and they would face hunger.

Topic : QUESTION

#Q. 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 the money to him. The reason was that he could not believe that it could be anybody other than God who would send him the money. His faith in God was so strong that he believed that only God had sent money to him.

Topic : QUESTION

#Q. 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 thought that the post office employees had taken the rest of the money because he had asked for a hundred pesos from God. But in the letter there only seventy pesos. He believed that God could not make such a mistake. So, he assumed that the post office employees have stolen the money.
The irony in the situation is that Lencho suspected the people who helped him in his problem. He tried to keep his faith alive in God.

Topic : QUESTION

#Q. 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, Ungraceful, Selfish, Comical, Unquestioning.

Ans. Yes, there are people like Lencho in the real world. Such people have blind faith in God and believe that God will help them in bad situations.
Lencho is a simple and a hardworking farmer who has extreme faith in God. He is innocent and naive but not stupid. He has an unquestioning attitude for he is unable to realise that anyone also instead of God would help him.

Topic : QUESTION

#Q. 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 illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crop by the hailstorm. Lencho was expecting rain to have a good harvest. Nature in the form of hailstones, is in conflict with a human, in the form of Lencho. The story also illustrates conflict between humans themselves. The postmaster along with his friends and staff sent Lencho money that he had asked from God. However, when Lencho receives it and finds it to be less, he gets angry. He blames the employees of the post office to take out his money that God had sent him. He even calls them a "bunch of crooks". This shows that man does not have faith in man, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

Topic : Homework

H.W.

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

D.H.A.

THANK YOU