A LETTER TO GOD

- G. L FUENTES

Answer the following questions:

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

A. Lencho’s crops were ready to be harvested. They just required a good downpour after which he could sell the harvest and get money. Hence, he compared the raindrops to ‘new coins’.

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

A. The rain was pouring down. But suddenly, a strong wind began to blow and large hailstones began to fall along with the rain. The hail rained on the valley for an hour because of which Lencho’s fields were destroyed. There was not a single leaf left on the trees and the flowers were gone from the plants. The corn was completely destroyed.

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

A. Lencho had faith in God. He had been instructed that God’s eyes see everything, even what is deep in one’s conscience. Therefore, he wrote a letter to God expressing his need for a hundred pesos so that he could sow his field again and live until the crop grew again.

**Q. Why did the postmaster send money to Lencho? Why did he sign the letter ‘God’?**

A. The postmaster sent money to Lencho in order to keep Lencho’s faith in God alive. He turned serious when he read Lencho’s letter and wished he had the same faith in God. Even after he saw that Lencho had requested for money, he stuck to his resolution of answering the letter. He collected as much money as he could and sent it to Lencho. He signed it ‘God’ so that Lencho’s faith would not be shaken.

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

A. No, Lencho did not try to find out who had sent the money to him. This is because he never suspected that it could be anybody 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.

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

A. Lencho thought that the post office employees had taken the rest of the money. The irony of the situation was that the employees whom he called a “bunch of crooks” and suspected of taking some of the money were the same people who had contributed and sent him the money in the first place.

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

A. The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crops by the hailstorm. Lencho had worked really hard on his fields and the harvest was really important for him. He required the money to feed his family. However, nature turned violent. The rains were accompanied by a hailstorm, which destroyed the crops. The story also illustrates 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. He called them “a bunch of crooks”. This shows that man does not have faith in his fellow humans, thereby giving rise to this conflict.

**Practice questions:**

**Q. “Don’t be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger.”**

a. Who is the speaker of the above line?

b. Why did the speaker say so?

c. What does this tell us about the speaker?

d. Who replied to the speaker? What was the reply?

**Q. Why did Lencho get angry when he opened the letter?**

**Q. How did Lencho react on the arrival of the rain?**

**Q. What was Lencho’s reaction when the rain worsened?**

**Q. Why did Lencho mention ‘a plague of locusts’?**