

# A Letter to God

Grade 10 NCERT English | First Flight Chapter 1



# About the Author: G.L. Fuentes

Gregorio López y Fuentes (1895-1966) was a prominent Mexican novelist, poet, and journalist. His works vividly chronicled Mexican rural life and social issues.

"A Letter to God" reflects his deep understanding of faith, hope, and human nature, set against a simple rural backdrop.



# Setting the Scene: Lencho's Farm



## Lencho's Humble Abode

Perched atop a low hill, Lencho's house offered a commanding view of his cornfield and the river valley below. It was the only house in the entire valley, a testament to his isolated, yet self-sufficient life.



## Awaiting the Life-Giving Rain

The land was parched, the cornfield desperately in need of water. Lencho, a farmer with unwavering hope, eagerly awaited the much-needed rain to ensure a bountiful harvest.



## Simple Family Life

Inside the modest home, Lencho's wife prepared dinner, while their children played contentedly nearby. Their lives revolved around the rhythms of the farm, dependent on nature's bounty.

# The Rain and the Hailstorm

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## Joyful Rain

Lencho joyfully welcomed the onset of rain, likening the large drops to "new coins" — a symbol of prosperity for his crops.

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## Devastating Hail

Suddenly, a violent hailstorm erupted, transforming the field into a white expanse, as if covered in salt. The entire crop was utterly destroyed.

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## Despair and Fear

Lencho's hope turned to profound despair. He feared hunger for his family and had no seeds left for the next planting season.



# The Letter to God



Despite the devastation, Lencho's faith remained unshaken. In a remarkable act of belief, he decided to write a letter, not to any man, but directly to God.

He addressed it simply to "God" and, with unwavering hope for divine intervention, he asked for a hundred pesos to replant his field and sustain his family until the next harvest.

His profound conviction was that God would surely provide in his time of dire need.

# The Postmaster's Response



## Amusement & Empathy

Post office employees found Lencho's letter amusing but were deeply moved by his unwavering faith in God.



## A Collective Effort

The postmaster, a kind and generous man, decided to help. He initiated a collection among his colleagues and friends to raise money for Lencho.



## The Anonymous Gift

They managed to collect 70 pesos, which was then sent to Lencho anonymously, signed simply as "God."

# Lencho's Reaction



Unwavering faith in God



Receives money from post office



Surprised and grateful



Builds suspicion about money



Misplaced suspicion towards postman

# Themes and Messages

## Unwavering Faith

The story champions the power of faith and hope in the face of overwhelming adversity, showing how belief can sustain an individual.

## Human Irony

It subtly explores the ironies of human nature: trust and distrust, kindness and misunderstanding, especially when good intentions are misjudged.

## Subtle Critique

Through humor, the narrative also offers a gentle critique of human behavior, particularly the inability to see the good in others due to narrow-mindedness.



# Important Quotes

"These aren't raindrops falling from the sky, they are new coins."

This quote captures Lencho's initial joy and hope, transforming nature's gift into a symbol of prosperity for his crops.

"God, if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year."

A desperate plea revealing Lencho's absolute reliance on divine intervention during his family's time of need.

"The employees of the post office are a bunch of crooks."

The ultimate ironic statement, where Lencho, blinded by his faith and disappointment, accuses those who helped him of deceit.



# Conclusion: What Can We Learn?

- Faith, while inspiring, can sometimes create blind spots to the reality of human effort and kindness.
- Kindness and generosity often emerge from unexpected places and people.
- Reflect on the complexities of trust, the importance of gratitude, and the inherent flaws in human perception.
- Consider: How would you respond if you were in Lencho's or the postmaster's shoes?